Legislators' salary issue remains unsettled. PAGE 2
PSS: 2019 graduations pushed back a week. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

75¢

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 6

www.saipantribune.com | THURSDAY JANUARY 10, 2019 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

### TO FILL VACANT HOUSE SEAT

# It's open season

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In a special election that will be held to fill the seat that became vacant with the passing of Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), the six candidates who lost in the race for Precinct 3 seats last Nov. 13 would need to submit once more their petitions for candidacy with the Commonwealth Election Commission.

This developed as a source disclosed that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had already talked with one of the lawyers of the Office of the Attorney General, who advised him that there should be a special election to fill the vacancy.

» Source: Torres agrees with OAG opinion to hold special election

The source said that Torres agrees with the OAG's opinion to follow the CNMI Constitution by holding a special election.

CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol said yesterday that the special election is open to anybody, which means other people who are qualified to run for the Precinct 3 seat can join the race and not just the candidates who lost in the general election last November.

Igitol said the CEC board will review the petitions for candidacy for approval.

She said the absentee voters for Precinct 3 would also need to

See SEASON on Page 4

# A new site for Hopwood?

## » PSS eyes relocation to temporary campus in February

Subcontractors for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work 24/7 to complete 42 temporary classrooms for the new temporary campus of the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School near the Koblerville Elementary School.
ERWIN ENCINARES

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At the moment, the Public School System is still on the fence whether to relocate the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School to a new site or not but that is a move that is being considered—among other options.

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña confirmed Tuesday that PSS is looking at the possibility of relocating the school but has not made any decision yet on the subject since the system's priority is to focus on campuses that sustained

See HOPWOOD on Page 4

## INSIDE

**BUSINESS**
Benefits under the food stamps program will be funded through February.

PAGE 13

**NATION**
President Donald Trump urged Democrats to fund his long-promised border wall.

PAGE 16

**LIFE & STYLE**
Margot Robbie will bring Barbie to life in a live-action film.

PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

# Legislators' salary issue remains unsettled

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With just four days to go before the 21st Legislature is installed on Monday, the 20th Legislature is scrambling to pass a measure that would establish of salary level for its members. If not, that would lower the lawmakers' salaries to just $8,000 per annum.

This came about after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres vetoed House Bill 20-195 last Tuesday. If that bill had been enacted, that would have raised the salaries of lawmakers in the 21st Legislature to $32,000.

The salary measure has gone back and forth from the Legislature to the Executive branch in a span of close to two months, soon after the CNMI Supreme Court ruled that Public Law 19-83, which would have set the compensation of lawmakers at $70,000, was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court also ruled that previous salary laws—P.L. 4-32 and P.L. 7-31—were unconstitutional.

The CNMI Superior Court, in September last year, ordered the 20th Legislature to address the issue before the inauguration of the 21st Legislature on Jan. 14 or else the salary of all incoming members will go down to $8,000.

Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) then introduced H.B. 20-194, setting the salary at $39,300 (which lawmakers were already getting), but then-acting governor Victor Hocog vetoed this last Dec. 31 after the CNMI Office of the Attorney General advised that the Advisory Commission developed its own composite price index, thus going against the CNMI Constitution, which states that they need to choose and use an accepted CPI.

Deleon Guerrero re-introduced the same legislation—H.B. 20-195—but this time settled for a $32,000 amount that was also included in the Advisory Commission's recommendation, which went as high as $47,555.47 per annum based on the locally accepted CPI. The House and Senate both passed the bill despite two conflicting legal opinions by their in-house counsels.

The House, when they acted on H.B. 20-195 in their session last December, passed the bill with only seven of the 17 members present as 10 recused themselves since they are returning in the 21st Legislature, based on the advice of House legal counsel John Cool, who cited Article II, Section 15 of the CNMI Constitution: Current members of the legislature that has financial or personal interest in a bill may not debate or vote on the legislation.

When the Senate acted on the same bill last week, Senate legal counsel Jose Bermudes said there was also a provision in the CNMI Constitution that a three-fourth vote is needed in a lame duck Legislature. A three-fourth vote in the Senate means seven members must agree to pass the legislation in order to meet the threshold.

And that required number of votes was the reason that Torres cited when he vetoed H.B. 20-195.

"While I commend the Legislature for taking the necessary steps to adhere to the three-prong test requirement held by the Supreme Court in *Manibusan v. Larson*, the [AG] has informed me that H.B. 20-195 has failed to pass the House with the supermajority of votes mandated for the passage of a bill affecting spending authority," said Torres in his letter to House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan).

"Because H.B. 20-195 did not succeed in attaining the required [number] of votes in the House for approval, the bill is legally insufficient. Accordingly, I must respectfully exercise my constitutional authority to veto this bill and recommend that the Legislature re-introduce this legislation after it has garnered the appropriate number of votes required."

Torres cited Article II Section 7 (d) of the CNMI Constitution, which states that any legislation that would affect the spending authority or financial management of the government enacted between the election and the second Monday of January of the succeeding year must garner a three-fourth vote from the members of the House and Senate.

Rep. Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) then introduced yesterday H.B. 20-197 with the same intent on what Deleon Guerrero authored the last time. He called for an emergency session at 10am today in order for the House to act on the bill and transmit it to the Senate, which is set to hold its *sine die* session tomorrow.

"I had to re-introduce it in order to address the issue and to ensure that the 21st Legislature would get the $32,000 compensation," said Demapan.

Palacios, in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*, said that he was not surprised by the decision of Torres to use his veto powers. "We can see that this would happen. That's why we, at the Senate, insisted to have seven votes as per the advice of our legal counsel."

"If there were no three-fourth votes, the bill will be dead. The House insisted that there would be conflict of interest but we have different opinions. We'll see what happens to their [House] session. We can also discuss it during our *sine die* once the bill gets transmitted to us at the Senate."

**WELCOME HOME**
Two officers from the Department of Public Safety unfurl the CNMI flag as they prepare to cover the metal case that has the remains of Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) after the plane carrying it arrived yesterday at the commuter terminal of the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport.
JON PEREZ

## Zoning Board chairman Blanco submits courtesy resignation

CNMI Zoning Board chair Diego Blanco has already submitted his courtesy resignation letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Blanco said he did not have to, according to legal advice, but he went ahead and resigned.

He is unsure if the other board members also submitted their courtesy resignations.

The other Zoning Board members are Joe Ayuyu Jr., Patrick Reyes, and Mariano Taitano.

George Fleming has not been sworn in yet to the board.

Zoning Board administrator Therese Ogumoro is not required to submit her resignation.

Last Nov. 18, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres asked all Cabinet members, board members, and commission members to submit their courtesy resignations.

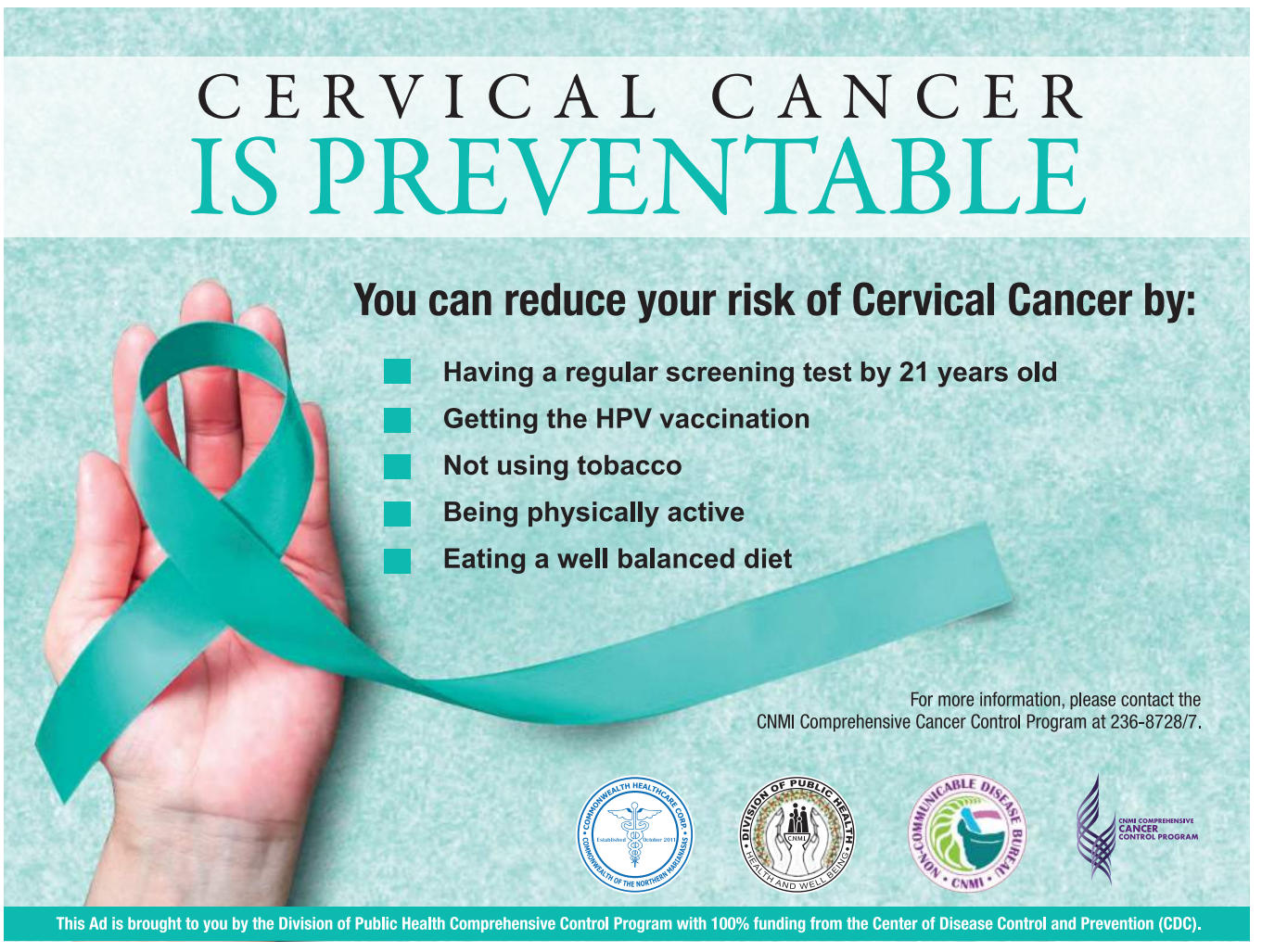
Torres and Senate President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) will be sworn in as governor and lieutenant governor, respectively, this Monday, Jan. 14. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

## Saipan beach red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the beach along the Central Repair Shop and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from this location were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***


CERVICAL CANCER
IS PREVENTABLE
You can reduce your risk of Cervical Cancer by:
Having a regular screening test by 21 years old
Getting the HPV vaccination
Not using tobacco
Being physically active
Eating a well balanced diet
For more information, please contact the
CNMI Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728/7.
This Ad is brought to you by the Division of Public Health Comprehensive Control Program with 100% funding from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**GROUNDED**
A Coast Guard HC-130 Hercules aircrew flies over the 308-foot Chinese-flagged commercial fish carrier *Ou Ya Leng No. 6* on Taka Atoll in the Marshall Islands on Jan. 3, 2019. The vessel is reportedly a fish carrier targeting squid in the Western and Central Pacific Fishing Commission area now aground in the territorial waters of the Marshall Islands with 24 crew aboard. Weather in the area is reportedly 11-foot seas with 25 mph winds, forecast to degrade to 14-foot seas with increasing winds.

U.S. COAST GUARD/HC-130 HERCULES 1720

# Two men in alleged burglary plead not guilty

Two men facing charges of conspiracy, burglary, theft, and criminal mischief have pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Demson Sachuo and Amado Kereman, both 18, through their lawyers, pleaded not guilty last Monday to four charges filed against them after an alleged burglary in Kagman 3.

Sachuo and Kereman were arraigned last Monday in front of Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

He scheduled both Sachuo and Kereman for a status conference on Feb. 11 at 9am.

According to court information, police responded to a burglary in progress on Nov. 27, 2018, at 2:28am in Kagman 3, behind the CYC store.

Police identified the suspects as Kereman and Sachuo.

Kereman refused to give a statement to the police, but Sachuo allegedly admitted that it was his idea to break into a neighbor's house.

During the preliminary hearing, it was learned that Kereman allegedly conspired with Sachuo to burglarize the neighboring home while Okaruru and Norita stayed back.

The two other suspects, however, allegedly warned Kereman and Sachuo when flashing lights were seen from a distance.

Sachuo told police that he and Kereman took a backpack, a small lamp, and batteries from the house.

It was learned during the preliminary hearing that other stolen items included perfume, watches, and domino chips that have yet to be recovered.

The stolen items came out to a sum of $1,258, excluding repairs to the burglarized home.

Police charged the two with conspiracy, burglary, and theft and criminal mischief.

A $20,000 cash bail was imposed on both defendants. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

# Rotary selects officers for 2020

The Rotary Club of Saipan announced that a brand-new set of officers to serve for the Rotarian Year 2019 through 2020 has been elected.

Rotary president Greg Borja told members last Tuesday that the club's selection of officers has officially ended with Rotary president-elect Sonya Dancoe as the club's 2019-2020 president.

For the first time in three years, current vice president Brian Clayton would be stepping down from his position and will become the club's Community Service director.

In Clayton's stead, Sean Ficke was elected 2019-2020 club vice president.

Tatiana Babauta was elected club secretary, Dave Guerrero was re-elected treasurer, and Curtis Dancoe was elected sergeant-at-arms.

Frank Celis was elected Club Service director, while Ivan Ilmov was elected New Generations director, Yosh Gabaldon is now the Vocational Service director, Borja is international service director, and Nelson Krum is the Rotary Foundation director.

The elections were done last Dec. 18, 2018.

In an interview, Borja noted that the new officers are a highly motivated group.

"The officers and directors are very motivated Rotarians. A lot of them have been with the club for a while, so it is a great opportunity to take advantage of their leadership," he said.

According to Borja, the club selects its officers one year in advance to allow them to prepare for a year's worth of service.

Marcia Ayuyu, the 2018-2019 club president, would officially be starting her term in July 2019, leaving Borja with only six months left on his term.

"The Rotary year starts every July 1, so we would have our inauguration night at around that weekend," he noted.

The Rotary traditionally meets every Tuesday at the Giovanni's of Hyatt Regency Saipan and features a guest speaker. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Get the amazing iPhone XS.
Sign up on a 3-Service Explorer Bundle and get a FREE Roku Streaming stick.
UNITED MileagePlus
Earn United MileagePlus miles with every $1 on the Explorer Bundle.
iPhone XS
64GB
$399 $299*
store.ite.net ite_cnmi ite.cnmi
Terms and conditions apply. Offer valid from 01/07/19 to 01/31/19. Advertised pricing is available only on a 24-month agreement on the $158/month plan. Advertised speeds are "up to" speeds. Subject to credit check. See stores or visit www.ite.net for details.
EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
IT&E

# Senate commends NMI educators

The Senate presents commemorative resolutions to former CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, and Drs. Bobby Cruz, Rizalina Maratita Liwag, and Yvonne R. Pangelinan last Wednesday.
JON PEREZ

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate honored the combined contributions of four educators by presenting former CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, and Drs. Bobby Cruz, Rizalina Maratita Liwag, and Yvonne R. Pangelinan each with commemorative resolutions last Wednesday.

The Senate introduced four resolutions: Senate Resolutions 20-33, 20-35, 20-37, and 20-42.

S.R. 20-33, 20-25, and 20-37 congratulate Liwag, Cruz, and Pangelinan for obtaining their respective doctorate degrees while S.R. 20-42 commends Guerrero for his years of service as a BoE member.

Liwag obtained her Doctor of Education in Administrative Leadership for Teaching and Learning. "We're happy to receive this recognition for my 25 years of service to the [the CNMI State Public School System] and my recent professional success with my doctorate degree. I'm overwhelmed with the honor and my family also appreciate this award," said Liwag.

Cruz, who is the first on both sides of his family to earn a doctorate, said the Senate commendation "feels like it is a challenge that they placed on our shoulders. Completing the degree was already a challenge itself. Now that we gained knowledge, the question now is what do we do from here?"

"All of our commitment is to continue to promote a positive social change. If we can achieve this, we hope it would inspire others to continue to pursue their dreams. I dedicate this to my family…but also to everyone in the CNMI who dream of accomplishing something."

Pangelinan said her doctorate is the product of the relationships she had formed with many individuals throughout her years with PSS.

"Also, the sacrifice that my family made, especially my husband [Wayne Pangelinan] who took many responsibilities over the years and my children who also sacrificed a lot. This degree is an accomplishment, but it belongs to the students who shared their stories with me."

She added that their goal has always been to improve the quality of education for all CNMI students.

Liwag obtained her Doctor in Education degree by taking continuing credits from Baker University in Kansas, University of San Diego, and University of Hawaii, while Cruz earned his Administrative Leadership for Teaching and Learning from Walden University in Minnesota. Pangelinan finished her doctor in Administration for Teaching and Learning also at Walden.

Guerrero, who became a BoE member during the leadership of then-Education commissioner Dr. Rita H. Inos, also thanked the Senate despite their differences in the past. "I know that over the years I've been a thorn on the side of the legislators, in terms of reminding them of their responsibilities of funding PSS appropriately."

"I must say that despite our differences, you have helped PSS to where we are now. I'm grateful after serving the BoE for the last 17 years. … We have a good system. When I first came to the board, with Dr. Inos at the helm, she has done an excellent job and pointed us in the direction of improving the system."

He added that any accomplishment made by PSS could also be credited to the members of the Legislature and other elected leaders. "You continue to support PSS. Thank you all. Your support for PSS is for the future of our kids to become well educated students.

"Well-educated students would them take care of their parents and grandparents. They learn to make sound decisions so we can avoid falling in the same trap that we had in the past and that we learn from those mistakes."

## HOPWOOD?

*From Page 1*

"lesser damage."

Super Typhoon Yutu tore through the CNMI in late October 2018, causing extensive damage to all of Hopwood's buildings in Afetna, nearly wiping out the school.

In the first place, Federal Emergency Management Agency inspections must first be completed before PSS can "determine what the next steps are," Muña said.

"…We need to first complete FEMA assessments at Hopwood," he added.

He wouldn't give a definitive answer, though, whether the campus would relocate or not.

As of Tuesday morning, FEMA has yet to inspect the Hopwood campus, Muña noted.

"We are prioritizing [campuses] that sustained lesser damage," he said.

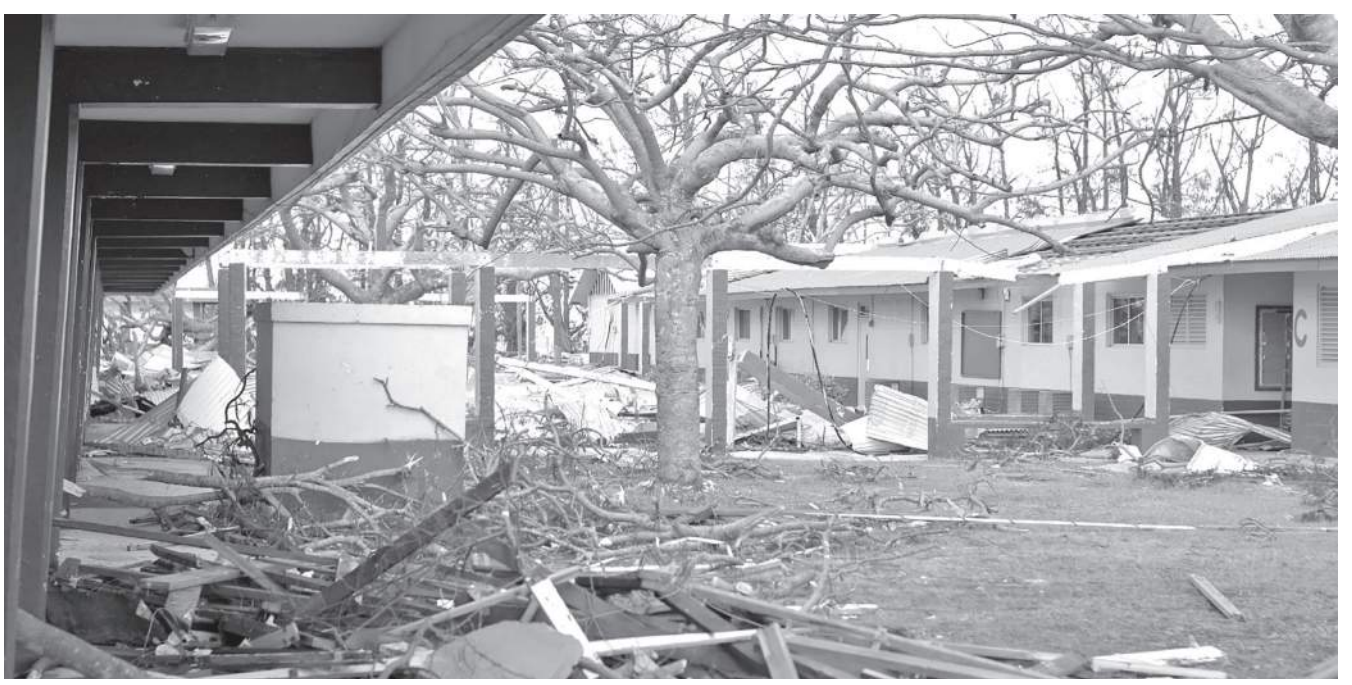
Hopwood principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag told *Saipan Tribune* in a previous interview that all of its 10 buildings on campus sustained "major damage," affecting about 70 rooms in all.

Right now, Hopwood is holding classes in the morning at the Marianas High School campus, but Muña noted that they would soon be moving to a new campus near the Koblerville Elementary School once the 42 temporary classrooms are being built.

According to Muña, subcontractors for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are working 24 hours to complete the temporary structures before February.

"We are expecting to move the students of Hopwood to their new temporary campus…in the first or second week of February [2019]," he told the Board of Education's Fiscal, Personnel, and Administrative Committee during a meeting Tuesday morning.

He further reported that Liwag has already made the orders for the collateral equipment required and these are expected to arrive next month.



This file photo shows the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School immediately after Super Typhoon Yutu in late October 2018.
ERWIN ENCINARES

## SEASON

*From Page 1*

vote again.

Once Torres issues a proclamation declaring the vacancy and a special election, the CEC will have a 60-day timeframe to hold the election, Igitol said .

Dela Cruz, 56, a former House vice speaker, passed away on Tinian last Sunday.

There are six Precinct 3 seats. Last November, a total of 12 candidates vied for those seats.

Edmund Villagomez, an independent, obtained the highest number of votes. Dela Cruz landed fifth.

The six candidates who did not make it were Rep. Donald Barcinas, David Sablan, Vicente Camacho, Luis Tilipao, Mariano Fajardo, and Stanley Torres.

Chief solicitor Charles E. Brasington told *Saipan Tribune* on Tuesday that the CNMI Constitution and statutes are straightforward about the issue whether a special election will be held or not.

# Senate kicks cannabis law amendment to next Legislature

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Senate has thumbed down a House bill that would have addressed some of the concerns raised by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in the law that legalized the use of cannabis in the CNMI, preferring to let the incoming members of the House address the issue.

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) said there are provisions in House Bill 20-196 that are potentially unconstitutional and has statutory contradictions.

"There's a provision in [H.B. 20-196] that affects regulation to make part of [the cannabis law, Public Law 20-66] go away. It doesn't work like that; that's unconstitutional. Regulation cannot trump statute and statute cannot trump Constitution. That's very basic," said Palacios.

"Secondly, the compensation package for the commission [members]. One is to pay them a salary, plus honorarium for board meetings. You can't have both. So, we were going to try to make those amendments," added Palacios.

Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) introduced H.B. 20-196. It seeks to amend certain sections of P.L. 20-66 that was signed into law by Torres in September last year.

Palacios said Tuesday that the Senate could have made the amendments but time is no longer on their side, "knowing full well that, in consulting with House members and the speaker, if we make amendments, that bill will not make it out of the House in time before they *sine die*."

"They [House] are not going to be able to accept those amendments in time to pass it. So, it has to be taken back, fixed, and let the next Legislature address it. Next week, somebody could pick it up and make a go at it. We are leaving this legislation on the table."

The 21st Legislature will be inaugurated on Jan. 14, Monday.

Senate floor leader Francisco M. Borja (R-Tinian) later withdrew his motion for the passage of H.B. 20-196.

Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) opposes giving additional compensation to commission members and he believes the annual compensation of $65,000 per annum is enough. The cannabis law would also give an honorarium of $60 each per member for whole-day board meetings and $30 each for half-day meetings.

"Any bill that originates from the House and gets to the Senate, it is our due diligence to make sure that it is in order before we vote. If we put this out for a vote with some deficiencies, I guarantee that many of our people are not going to care about reading this bill," said Quitugua.

"Because [people] rely on us to know what we're doing here, we should give them a good initiative. It is our due diligence to look at this legislation, if we feel that it is not going to fulfill its intent to benefit the people."

**LEGISLATIVE BREAK**
Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota), from left, and Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) listen to Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar during a recess in Tuesday's Senate session on Capital Hill. JON PEREZ

# Lawyer: Clients who filed racketeering lawsuit has failed to pay his law firm

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mark Scoggins wants to withdraw as lawyer for a businessman and his former company after they allegedly failed to pay his law office for the racketeering lawsuit his law firm filed on their behalf.

Scoggins

Scoggins said his clients—Il Hwan Kim and KSA Corp.—have not responded despite his efforts to get in touch with them daily for several months.

Scoggins said some of these communications have been in the Korean language and that they have no doubt that the communication was sent to a source to which Kim and KSA have access.

He said Kim and KSA did have one phone conversation with him, in which promises of payment and also further communication on a specific time frame were agreed.

Scoggins said Kim and KSA did not follow through despite his clear instruction, through an interpreter.

"Because of these failures, the lawyers of this office have been unable to obtain necessary information to properly represent KSA and Mr. Kim in this matter," he said.

This, Scoggins said, coupled with the fact that racketeering cases are difficult and intensive to begin with, renders the representation "unreasonably difficult."

The lawyer said that Kim and KSA have not paid his office for some months now, despite repeated attempts to communicate with them.

"KSA and Mr. Kim have made promises, but have not kept their promises," he added.

Scoggins cited the Model Rules of Professional Responsibility for his bid to withdraw from the case.

Last March, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Kim's and KSA's claims against Joann P. Hensley, the remaining defendants in the lawsuit.

Manglona dismissed with prejudice the claims against Hensley at the request of Kim and KSA.

Dismiss with prejudice means Kim and KSA can no longer re-file the claims against Hensley.

The other defendants in the case were Hun Jin An and Jeong Eun Tack. Both have been dismissed from the case on technical grounds.

Kim and KSA alleged in their lawsuit that the defendants conspired to steal millions of dollars from him for his hotel and casino project on Saipan.

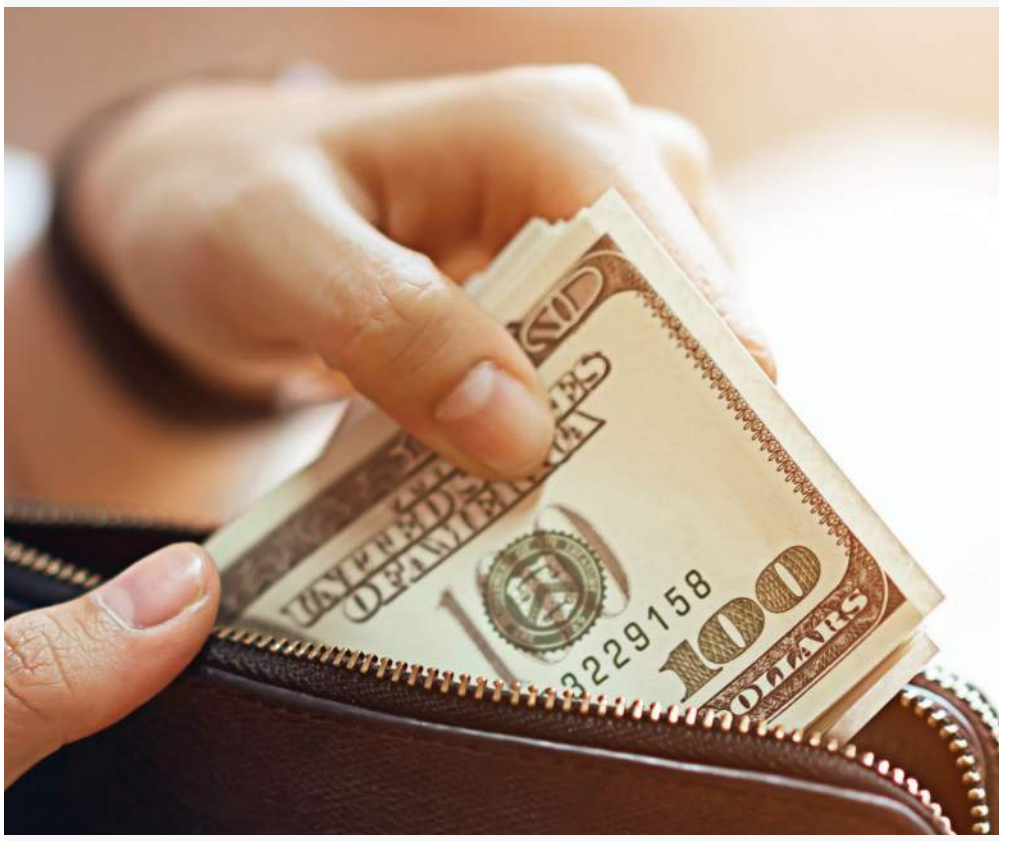
Aside from those three defendants, Kim and KSA Corp. also sued former House speaker Oscar M. Babauta, Department of Public Lands employee Ramon S. Salas, and 10 unnamed co-defendants pursuant to Racketeer Influence and Corrupt Organizations Act and other causes of action.

In 2017, the court dismissed with prejudice the claims against Babauta.

In January 2018, Manglona also dismissed the claims against Salas.

FHB.COM

Get $300 as your first perk with Priority Banking.℠



Get more perks

Join our premier banking plan and the more you bank with us, the more benefits you'll receive.

To learn more, visit fhb.com or any branch.

Open or upgrade to a Priority Banking account with $30,000 from another institution and receive $300.*

First Hawaiian Bank
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

Member FDIC

* Priority Banking: Open or upgrade to Priority Banking with a minimum opening deposit of $30,000 drawn from another financial institution, by February 28, 2019, to receive a $300 statement credit (or $150 statement credit for $15,000 minimum opening deposit drawn from another financial institution). Accounts closed or converted out of Priority Banking within 180 days will be assessed a $75 charge. The statement credit will be completed the month following the qualifications being met. As of 1/2/19, the Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for a Personal Priority Banking checking account is 0.02% for Level 2 and 0.04% for Level 3. The rates may change after the account is opened/upgraded. Limit of one statement credit per offer or account. Business and corporate accounts do not qualify for this offer. The monthly service charge is $15 for Priority Level 1, $19 for Level 2, and $22 for Level 3. Banking services and special benefits depend on the Priority Level you apply for and maintain. These benefits may be lost if account is closed or converted to another type of account. All loan-related products are subject to credit approval. Please see a Priority Banking Plan Checking Account Agreement for specific terms and conditions. These offers cannot be combined with any other discounts, offers or promotions.

# PSS: 2019 graduations pushed back a week; RHI status quo

ERWIN ENCINARES

The Board of Education's Committee on Fiscal, Personnel, and Administration convene Tuesday on Capital Hill.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

High school graduation on Rota remain as is, but the rest of public schools in the CNMI will have their high school graduations pushed back by a week.

This was learned during the Public School System's Board of Education committee meeting last Tuesday, with many high schools forced to play catch up in the wake of the widespread devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Education Commissioner Glenn Muña reported to the board's Committee on Fiscal, Personnel, and Administration that the graduation for the Dr. Rita H. Inos High School on Rota is on status quo, while that of high schools and middle schools on Tinian and Saipan would be delayed a week to allow the classes to catch up.

In a follow-up interview Tuesday, Muña noted that no seniors withdrew from PSS and that they continue to expect about 900 students to graduate in early to mid-June 2019.

Soon after Super Typhoon Yutu swept through the CNMI, PSS announced that it is ready to process students who wish to withdraw from PSS.

"To my knowledge, most of the withdrawals are at the elementary level," Muña said. "We are expecting pretty much the same number of students [to graduate]."

He assured that PSS exerted all efforts to make sure that the tertiary education of graduating seniors would not be delayed. "We are only pushing [some graduations] back a week," he added.

The new schedules for graduation start as early as June 7 for the Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. High School's promotion and graduation date. Tinian High School's promotion and graduation dates follow on June 10, 2019.

Dandan Middle School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, and the Marianas High School would be having their graduation and promotion ceremonies on June 11, 2019. Kagman High School, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, and Tanapag Middle School would be conducting their promotion and graduation ceremonies on June 12, 2019, while Hopwood Middle School, Da'ok Academy, and the Saipan Southern High School would be having their promotion and graduations ceremonies on June 13, 2019.

Muña noted in his report that RHI's graduation dates were unaffected by the delays brought by Super Typhoon Yutu. However, Typhoon Mangkhut's destruction on Rota required the schools to extend classes by a few minutes per day to catch up.

Ultimately, the new graduation schedule was passed at the committee level and now heads to the board for discussion.

## Tugboat searches for crewmembers who abandoned burning ship

**HONOLULU** (AP)—A tugboat is searching for crew members who weren't rescued when the ship they were on caught fire while transporting automobiles from Japan to Hawaii.

The *Sincerity Ace* had 21 crewmembers on board when the fire started last week. The crewmembers abandoned the burning vessel, which stretches 650 feet (198 meters).

Ships in the area rescued 16. Four were listed as unresponsive in the water. The U.S. Coast Guard suspended its search for one missing crewmember.

Japanese shipping company Shoei Kisen Kaisha Ltd. owns the Panamanian-flagged vessel.

Company spokesman Darrell Wilson says tugboat crewmembers who arrived Monday are trying to find the remaining crewmembers before towing the ship.

He says vessels in the area are asked to look out for bodies.

Wilson doesn't know if the ship is still burning.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
**HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD**
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net • Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 8 am*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CHCC Conference Room #2, Lower Navy Hill.

**AGENDA**

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (09/06/18 & 11/14/18)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
- Announcement: Chairman's confirmation to the Health Care Board
- Status of Dr. Willis's confirmation to the Health Care Board
- Election of Officers

VII. Director's Report
- HCPLB Financial Report
- FSMB 2019 Annual Meeting on April 25-27, 2019 – Fort Worth, Texas

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Applications
B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

**Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda**
Thursday, January 24, 2019
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 ⊠ Fax: 234-9666 ⊠ www.zoning.gov.mp

**A. Preliminary Matters**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 10/04/2018 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

**B. Public Hearings:**
**1. Conditional Use Application #2018-3838:** Joy Y. Silva dba AJ Machine Shop is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey building for its fabrication services. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 005 I 124 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
**2. Rezone Application #2018-4299:** RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction is requesting to rezone Lot No. 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial" zoning district for warehousing and fabrication of materials for construction projects. This lot is located along Kulot Di Rosa Drive, east of Saipan Health Clinic and Green Meadows School.
**3. Conditional Use Application #2018-4302:** Top Sheng Investment, LLC is proposing to operate a Powered Paragliding business. This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 080 A 01 in Marpi. This area is zoned as Rural.

**C. Communication**
**D. Old Business**
1. Update on the ATV, UTV, and Motorcycle Regulation
**E. New Business**
1. Text & Map Amendments to 2013 Saipan Zoning Law – for Board Adoption
2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)
**F. Executive (Closed) Session**
**G. Miscellaneous**
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting
**H. Adjourn**

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

*/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman*

**LOTTERY WINNER**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jin Guang Zhi plays both the Megadraw and the Pacific Gold Lottery games every week. On the morning of Dec. 12, 2017, he had a lucky feeling, so he stopped by the Ming Yang Supermarket that morning on his way to work and bought a Pacific Gold Lottery ticket. The next day, Zhi went back to the store to check if he had won something. And that's when the cashier handed him a prize claim form and told him that he had won a big amount, and that he had to contact the Northern Marianas Sports Association office to claim his winnings. Sure enough, when he did that, he was told that he had just won $5,000. And just right before Christmas and New Year! Here, photo shows NMSA's Mike White and Anicia Lisua holding up the ceremonial check for Zhi's lottery win.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Humanities awards next week

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will be hosting the 21st Governor's Humanities Awards at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant on Thursday, Jan. 24, starting at 11am. ***(PR)***

### 4.7-magnitude quake in Guam yesterday

At 9:04am yesterday, a report of a 4.7 magnitude earthquake occurred 165 kilometers southwest of Merizo, Guam. There were no reports of personnel injuries or damage to infrastructure and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

### Kagman schools to have PTSA meeting

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019 at 5:30pm at the Chacha Ocean View Middle School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents and guardians to attend this meeting.

Please call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. ***(PR)***

### Volunteers sought for Head Start Council

The Head Start/Early Head Start Program is seeking volunteers from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to serve as community representatives for the Head Start Policy Council.

The requirements include community representatives who are familiar with resources and services for low-income children and families; cannot be an employee or immediate relative of an employee for the CNMI Public School System; and may not have already served five terms on the council.

The deadline is Jan. 25, 2019. Interested community members should email a brief letter of interest and resume to hsehs@cnmipss.org. The election of community representatives will be held during the January meeting of the Head Start Policy Council. For more information, contact Jolene Sablan at jolene.sablan@cnmipss.org or call 323-7446/664-3761. ***(PR)***

### Great Stories Club continues at JKPL

The Great Stories Club at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is restarting after Super Typhoon Yutu. The next meeting will take place on Saturday, Jan. 19, from 12:30pm to 2:30pm.

If interested, sign up online (https://goo.gl/forms/IYLvr-MVdjwKe6hnW2), or visit the library to sign up!

Unlike previous book club sessions, effective in January, the Great Stories Club will meet once per month, after which meeting the participants will be able to keep the book. Food will be provided, and participants will receive a prize. ***(PR)***

### UOG programs accredited 7 more years

The School of Business & Public Administration at the University of Guam has been granted reaffirmation of accreditation for its Bachelor of Business Administration and Professional Master of Business Administration programs for another seven years, the maximum number of years possible. This continues a history of accreditation for the school dating back to 1997. The SBPA's business program is also the only accredited four-year program in Micronesia.

The notification came from the International Accreditation Council for Business Education—an accrediting body that is nationally recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education—following its Board of Commissioners meeting in early December.

"This accreditation means continued assurance for our current and prospective business students that their education here at UOG rivals stateside and international business schools," said SBPA dean Annette T. Santos.

The accreditation involved a comprehensive peer-review process, a rigorous self-evaluation, and demonstrating compliance with accreditation principles in the areas of curriculum, faculty, international business education, and educational innovation, among others. ***(UOG)***

MEGADRAW
Jackpots!
$41
MILLION
THIS THURSDAY
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
18+ To Purchase
LOTTERY
Results will be published on Saipan Tribune every Friday
For results, visit www.nmsalottery.com
Tickets available here:
XO Supermarket, 99cent Supermarket, Twins Navy Hill, Sara Market, New Kagman Market, Lucky De Supermarket, Happy Market, Ming Yang Supermarket, Hanam Supermarket, Rising Supermarket, Friendly Mart or Twins Dan Dan

# Army engineers help install temporary roofs

**ASAN, Guam**—More than 140 active-duty service members arrived on Saipan on Jan. 5-6, to install temporary roofs and continue to provide Department of Defense support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and work with the CNMI's civil and local officials in restoring much-needed shelter to those affected by Super Typhoon Yutu.

The service members are part of Task Group Engineer, a newly formed joint team of Army, Navy and Air Force engineers led by the Army's 84th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade, based in Hawaii.

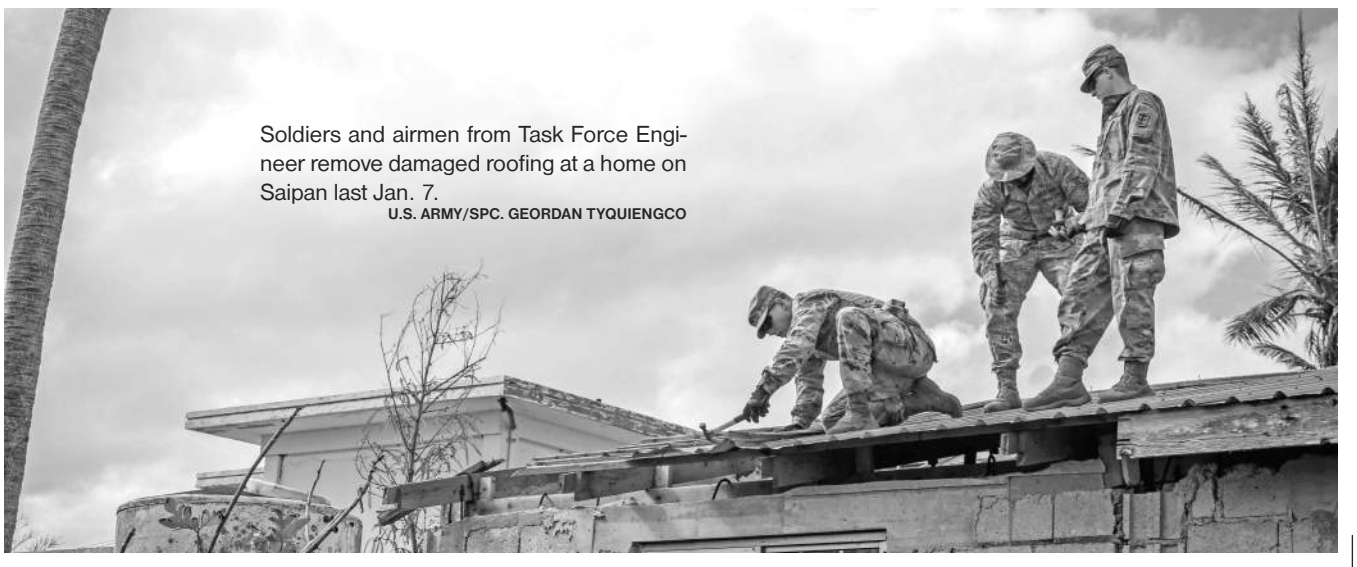
"As CNMI continues to recover from Super Typhoon Yutu, the military will also continue to provide assistance to FEMA in support of the CNMI recovery efforts," said Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas and commander of Joint Task Force West. "The engineers—composed of Army, Air Force and Navy service members—will work diligently to provide much-needed temporary roofing to residents of Saipan and Tinian."

Military service members from the DoD have accomplished many of their FEMA-assigned immediate response and recovery tasks, and their current focus is the installation of temporary roofs, of which more than 200 have already been completed by Seabees and airmen from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 and the 36th Civil Engineer Squadron.

To meet this goal, these additional active-duty engineers will work to restore much-needed shelter to those affected by Super Typhoon Yutu, which struck the CNMI on Oct. 24-25.

"We are excited to reinforce the temporary roofing efforts led by CNMI and FEMA," said Lt. Col. Reyn Mann, 84th Engineer Battalion and Task Group Engineer commander. "We know we are stronger as a task group, and our soldiers, Seabees, and airmen are here to work hard for the people of Tinian and Saipan, who have shown remarkable courage and resilience in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu."

The DoD mission is expected to continue until the critical needs are met or FEMA officials have implemented the appropriate mix of civil and contracted solutions to allow them to continue to lead federal government relief and recovery efforts without DoD support. ***(PR)***



Soldiers and airmen from Task Force Engineer remove damaged roofing at a home on Saipan last Jan. 7.
U.S. ARMY/SPC. GEORDAN TYQUIENGCO

Airmen from Task Force Engineer remove damaged roofing at a home on Saipan last Jan. 7.
U.S. ARMY/SGT. 1ST CLASS WYNN HOKE

Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, commander, Joint Region Marianas, and commander, Joint Task Force West, visits the warehouse distribution site and speaks to Task Group Engineer service members about their role in Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts last Jan. 8.
U.S. ARMY/SGT. 1ST CLASS WYNN HOKE

# USVI utility firm sells excess transformers, supplies to NMI

The Water and Power Authority in the U.S. Virgin Islands is selling excess transformers and other supplies to help restore power in the Northern Mariana Islands, a fellow U.S. territory.

The islands of Tinian and Saipan were devastated last October by Super Typhoon Yutu. Proceeds from the sale of the unneeded equipment will be returned to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which paid for them to begin with.

Last Thursday, WAPA's governing board approved the sale of 675 excess transformers at an estimated cost of $1.3 million plus administrative fees. It also approved selling excess material and supplies usually used to redevelop an electric grid, such as pole hardware, conductors, insulators, and potheads, which are the familiar bell-shaped glass insulators on utility poles.

American Wire Group, a WAPA supply vendor, will purchase the excess materials from WAPA and will provide the materials to the Northern Mariana Islands to aid in the restoration there. FEMA has approved the sale of the materials and transformers, as the assets were initially purchased by WAPA and reimbursed by the federal government during the post-hurricane restoration.

The board also approved the sale of additional excess transformers, with a $2.5 million cap on all transformer sales. ***(PR)***

# MVA officials submit courtesy resignations

**By FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As is standard procedure each time a new administration is sworn in, officials of the Marianas Visitors Authority, led by MVA board chair Marian Aldan- Pierce and managing director Christopher Concepcion, have resigned from their posts as a matter of courtesy.

Concepcion said Tuesday that, as far as he knows, Aldan-Pierce, directors Cinta Kaipat, Jerry Tan, and Nick Nishikawa have already turned in their courtesy letters of resignation. He is not sure if the other directors have already resigned on their own but they are all aware of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' request.

Concepcion disclosed that he himself submitted his courtesy letter of resignation addressed to Torres and Lt. Gov.-elect Arnold Palacios and the MVA board of directors.

"I know I technically report to the MVA board but, in deference to the incoming administration, I submitted my courtesy resignation to allow them to determine if they feel I am the best person to lead the MVA in the next four years," he said.

It is now up to Torres if he's going to accept their courtesy resignations.

"We will honor his decision regardless," Concepcion said.

Concepcion has been the MVA managing director since April 2016.

Under Aldan-Pierce's and Concepcion's leadership, the CNMI's tourism industry has improved in multiple ways, resulting in many arrival records broken, awards the MVA/CNMI received, programs the MVA started, and signature events launched.

# Imperial Pacific to host Japan poker event on Saipan

The All Japan Poker Championship Asian Circuit will include this year a poker competition on Saipan for the first time ever, according to an article in ggrasia.com, a website that features developments in the casino industry in Asia.

The GGRAsia article states that competition is to be held at the Imperial Pacific Resort, a casino operated by a unit of Hong Kong-listed Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd, a company that is building a hotel on the site. The poker event will be held from Feb. 13 to 17, the AJPC said in a written announcement on Tuesday and cited in the GGRAsia story.

According to the story, the buy-in to the main competition will be $2,000 and a series of side events and cash games are also scheduled.

The AJPC said the Saipan tournament will likely attract players from Japan, "but also increase the number of entries its circuit events typically receive from other regional markets, including South Korea and Taiwan.

"We aim to hold the AJPC Asian Circuit in Saipan for the first Japan-based tournament to be held on the island," the announcement quoted AJPC chair Sasaki Yasuhiro as saying. "We will continue to build our brand through launching tournaments in new and exciting destinations."

Saipan is part of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. jurisdiction.

The AJPC is adding new competitions to its Asian circuit in places other than Saipan, including one competition in South Korea and others in Southeast Asia, with a view to expanding the number of players competing outside Japan.

The AJPC is based in Osaka and holds a number of events within Japan, including a yearly AJPC Championship, which it said was the "largest poker tournament" in Japan. The AJPC last year said it had enjoyed a period of growth with registrations increasing year-on-year. It also added Taiwan to its event circuit. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

ERWIN ENCINARES
The Commonwealth Health Center outpatient pharmacy staff pose for a photo yesterday while celebrating their first year anniversary.

# CHC outpatient pharmacy marks its first anniversary

The Commonwealth Health Center celebrated last Tuesday the first anniversary of the establishment of its outpatient pharmacy at the CHC building, making the occasion by giving out freebies and free medical services.

The giveaways included sugar-free cake, a small reusable bag, boxes of anti-allergy medicine, a first-aid kit, a pill caddy; and some brochures.

The free medical services included health screenings and education and flu vaccinations.

The pharmacy also unveiled Tuesday a new pathway leading to the pharmacy as well as a new signage right next to the main entrance.

"The best part of providing pharmacy on an outpatient basis is being able to interact directly with patients, and becoming part of their solution to feeling better," said Rodylyn Bacani, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Pharmacy Department manager, in a statement. "The outpatient pharmacy has become another doorway for patients to get the help they need. It is an honor to work for them."

In a separate interview, Bacani said the pharmacy is looking at extending telepharmacy services to Rota and Tinian. The main pharmacist would be stationed on Saipan while pharmacy technicians on Rota and Tinian would prepare the medicines for issuance to patients. "We will have the same system on Rota and Tinian," she said. "The patients there can have access to our pharmaceutical services through a video conference."

According to Bacani, a first formal meeting was held last Monday. She expects to launch the telepharmacy system for Rota and Tinian sometime this year. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

**for**

**Joy Y. Silva dba AJ Machine Shop**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Joy Y. Silva dba AJ Machine Shop is proposing to occupy an existing one-storey building for its fabrication services. This use is classified as "Manufacturing & Processing" and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A. 005 I 124 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

**Date:** Thursday, January 24, 2019
**Time:** 5:00 pm
**Place:** Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office **before 4:30 pm, January 23, 2019**. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

*/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman*

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

**Proposed Amendment to the Official Saipan Zoning Map (Rezone) for RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction**

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking your comments on the following proposed amendment (rezone) to the Official Saipan Zoning Map. RJCL Corporation dba RNV Corporation is requesting to rezone Lots # EA 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya, from "Village Residential" to "Village Commercial" zoning district.
A public hearing will be held on:

**Date:** Thursday, January 24, 2019
**Time:** 5:00 pm
**Place:** Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 3:00 pm, January 23, 2019. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

*/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman*

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

**for**

**Top Sheng Investment, LLC**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Top Sheng Investment, LLC is proposing to operate a Powered Paragliding business. This use is classified as "Amusement, Outdoor" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 080 A 01 in Marpi. This area is zoned as Rural.

**Date:** Thursday, January 24, 2019
**Time:** 5:00 pm
**Place:** Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office **before 4:30 pm, January 23, 2019**. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

*/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman*

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**01/09/19**
**Amendment No. 1**
**Notice for Public Comment**
**Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds**

| Program Year: | Program: | Activity Name: | Subrecipient: | Approved Budget: | Proposed Reprogramming Amount: | Proposed Revised Project Budget: | Current IDIS Funded Amount: |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2014 | CDBG | CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost 2014 | NMHC | $193,092.20 | ($109,070.75) | N/A | $193,092.20 |
| 2015 | CDBG | 15 CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost | NMHC | $194,186.00 | ($64,936.74) | N/A | $194,186.00 |
| 2016 | CDBG | 16 CDBG Planning and Administrative Cost | NMHC | $196,969.20 | (125,992.51) | $70,976.69 | $196,969.20 |
| | | | **Total:** | | **($300,000.00)** | | |
| 2018 | CDBG | Super Typhoon Yutu Debris Removal for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota | Saipan Mayors Office (New) | | $250,000.00 | N/A | N/A |
| 2018 | CDBG | Super Typhoon Yutu Debris Removal for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota | Tinian Mayors Office (New) | | $25,000.00 | N/A | N/A |
| 2018 | CDBG | Super Typhoon Yutu Debris Removal for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota | Rota Mayors Office (New) | | $25,0000.00 | N/A | N/A |
| | | | **Total:** | | **$300,000.00** | | |

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) requires our agency to publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over $50,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before January 23, 2019, no later than 10 a.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447.

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 6

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

# Abolish death penalty once and for all

Although the Washington Supreme Court ruled in October that Washington's use of the death penalty was unconstitutional, the court's action did not completely eliminate capital punishment in the state.

The Legislature still needs to vote this year to repeal.

Washington's death penalty was racially based, arbitrary and lacks fundamental fairness, the justices ruled and opponents have been saying for years. Research quoted in the Supreme Court decision found that, in this state, "black defendants were four and a half times more likely to be sentenced to death than similarly situated white defendants."

The Supreme Court left open the possibility that the Legislature could fix the death penalty. No current or future Legislature should be permitted to do so.

Attorney General Bob Ferguson is working with two lawmakers, Sen. Reuven Carlyle, D-Seattle, and Rep. Tina Orwall, D-Des Moines, to close the door on the death penalty once and for all. Lawmakers have tried and failed for years to pass similar legislation.

The death penalty is not a deterrent to crime and is unnecessary for public safety. It is not worth the cost to taxpayers or the emotional energy required from victims' families.

Since Washington reinstated the death penalty in 1981, 33 people were sentenced to die, although some had their sentences changed on appeal, and five have been executed. Gov. Jay Inslee declared a moratorium on executions in 2014. The Supreme Court's unanimous ruling converted the sentences for the state's remaining eight death-row inmates to life in prison without release.

In the past 15 years, seven states have ended their death penalties and Washington, Colorado and Oregon adopted moratoriums. Only a few states are still executing prisoners, including Texas, Florida, Georgia and Oklahoma, but nationally death sentences have decreased dramatically.

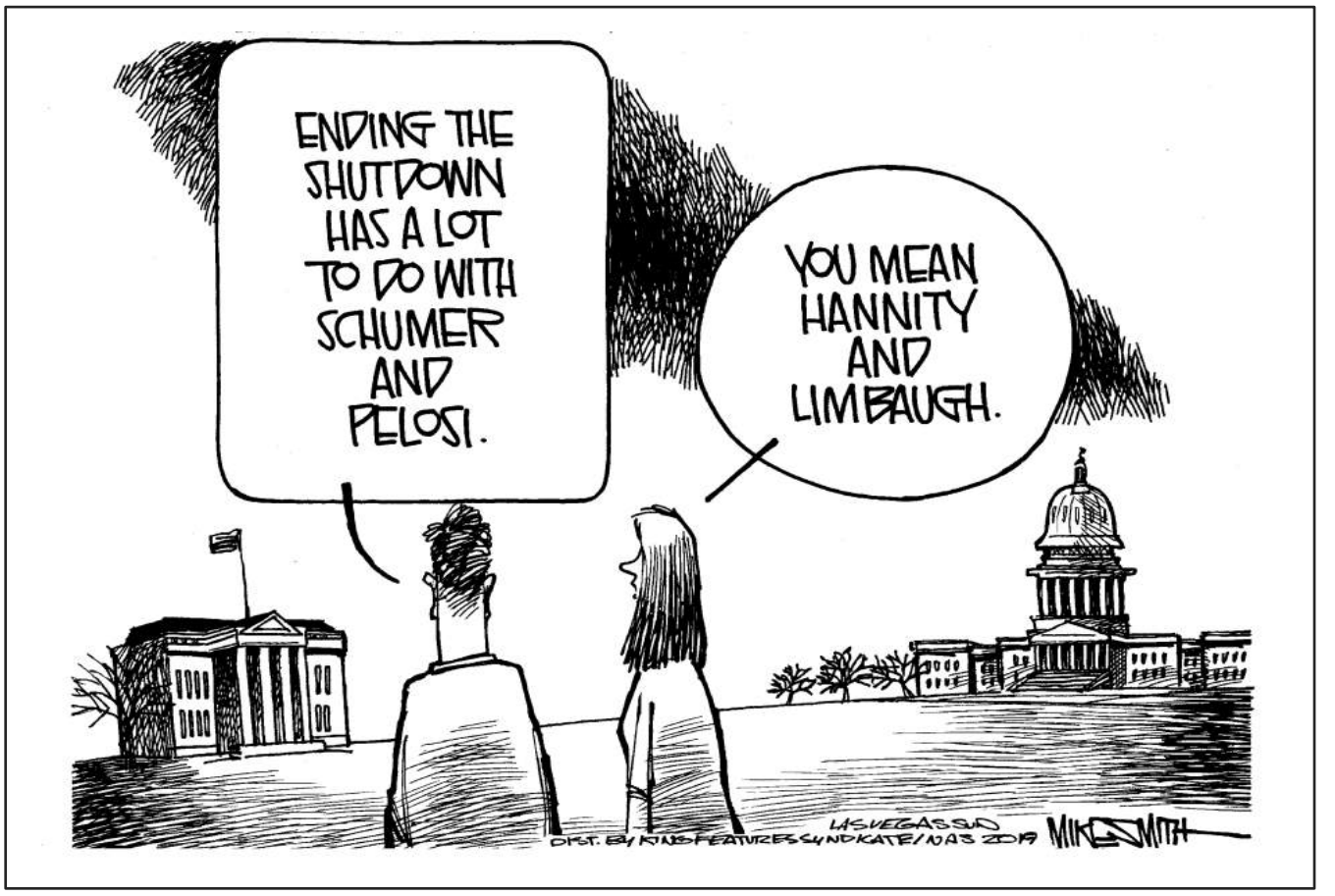
In Washington, one of the best arguments for eliminating the death penalty is the disproportionate way it has been used, both geographically and racially.

"The death penalty is unequally applied—sometimes by where the crime took place, or the county of residence, or the available budgetary resources at any given point in time, or the race of the defendant," Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst wrote in the lead opinion.

Prosecutors seek the death penalty only in the most populous counties, because those are the municipalities that can afford the cost of trial and death-penalty appeals. Seeking the death penalty adds at least $1 million to the cost of prosecution—money that could be better used toward other law and justice work.

This is the year to eliminate the death penalty in Washington state.

(c)2019 The Seattle Times


ENDING THE SHUTDOWN HAS A LOT TO DO WITH SCHUMER AND PELOSI.
YOU MEAN HANNITY AND LIMBAUGH.
LASVEGASSUN
DIST. BY KINGFEATURESSYNDICATE/NAS 2019
MIKE SMITH

# A proposal for healthier marriages

**By SUSAN SHAIN**
Los Angeles Times

*Susan Shain is a freelance writer.*

For many women in the United States, a fairy tale persists: Meet guy, fall in love with guy, then anxiously await guy's declaration of said love in a grand gesture—a spectacular marriage proposal—accompanied by an overpriced rock.

In an era of empowerment and broken glass ceilings, why do so many of us still want and wait for a glass slipper? Unlike many other male-female power dynamics, women haven't just accepted that men will do the asking; we've gleefully perpetuated it.

My former boyfriend and I talked about marriage, but only in that dreamy way that many young couples do. The decisive moment was supposed to be a surprise, at least for me. Otherwise, he didn't really love me! Romance, everywhere, would be dead!

When he did propose, I didn't know what to say other than yes. He's a wonderful man and I was in love; what other possible answer could there be to this romantic moment that I had dreamed of experiencing?

Dismayed by the prospect of planning a wedding, I suggested we drive to Las Vegas. Six hours later, we were married; six weeks later, the marriage was annulled. Having been swept up by passion rather than pragmatism, we quickly discovered it would never work.

Would honest, unsexy conversations about the details of building a life together have saved us heartache and embarrassment? Probably. Would I have considered such a practical sort of "proposal" at that point in my life? Probably not. I wanted a scene and story worthy of a rom-com.

I was not alone in that desire. The romantic proposal is so sought after that some women do all they can to shape it, while maintaining the fiction that the adoring and thoughtful man made it all happen.

Ellen Lamont, a professor of sociology at Appalachian State University who is writing a book about modern courtship, interviewed 38 straight, college-educated, Bay Area women—the sort who take command of their own lives in most regards—and found that nearly all of them had orchestrated their proposals yet told their friends it was a surprise.

Lamont says women yield to the cultural narrative that their fiance must choose them in a socially sanctioned way, fearing others will think their relationship if "less-than if it's not performed correctly."

Most heterosexual couples I know also painted the broad strokes of an engagement beforehand, but ultimately left the timeline up to the male. Lamont says this tradition reifies the continued disempowerment of women. "They're not seen as valid drivers of their own desires," she explains. "It reflects the idea that women should remain passive, that they should be chosen rather than be the choosers."

Of course, perfectly planned proposals don't necessarily spell doom; plenty of couples follow the prescribed meet-date-kneewed process and still have strong marriages. But when a proposal fit for a romance novel is of such importance, couples can fall victim to planning the celebration but not the life together.

Stephanie Coontz, a marriage historian and author of "Marriage, a History: How Love Conquered Marriage," says the guy-asks-girl engagement finds its roots in economics. "Just as you don't normally ask somebody to take you to dinner, you don't ask somebody to support you for the rest of your life," she explains. "That was the early sense: You can't ask a man to marry you because you're asking them to take on that responsibility."

While she says that was always "baloney," because women did ample work within the home, now there's even less reason for the tradition, because many women earn money outside the home and come to the marriage as equals.

Coontz suggests that the proposal game reflects the "glacial weight" of gender stereotypes and the fact that "people are trying to find ways of accommodating the old stereotypes without necessarily living them." She also notes that women haven't had to face the risk of rejection—men traditionally are the ones who ask for a dance or a date—and may be savoring that luxury. Whatever the reason, she says, waiting for a man to prove something with a romantic proposal isn't a good way "to start a modern, egalitarian relationship."

And yet we wait. And then we peacock our rings and make predictions for our friends' engagements—"I bet he's going to do it in (insert exotic destination here)"—setting them up for disappointment if their partners don't deliver.

I am no exception. I have participated in these rituals over and over—and will continue to do so, because I'm delighted for anyone who's found love in the way they chose.

But last year, I told my current partner I wanted to talk about marriage. About what it would look like, when we'd do it, whether it was necessary. There was no drama and no diamond; just me and the man I love, talking. And then talking again. If we take the leap, there won't be a ring or a bent knee. There will be a mutual decision free from the fanfare of an Instaworthy proposal.

While it might make for a boring rom-com, I'm hoping it will form the basis for a pretty good life.

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the name, village address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Premature babies at higher risk for disabilities

**By AMBER ALBERTS**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

One in 10 babies are born premature every year in the United States. According to Stacey Stewart, president of March of Dimes, a charity focused on ending birth defects, "preterm birth is the No. 1 cause of death among babies and a leading cause of lifelong disabilities." The severity of their disabilities all depends on how premature they were and what illnesses or complications they experienced after birth. It can cause long-term health problems that may not even show up until adulthood. Some health issues common among premature babies include intellectual and developmental disabilities such as ADHD, anxiety, trouble learning, speech impairments, blindness, deafness, breathing problems, brain bleeds and infections, and cerebral palsy. It is important to talk to your health care provider early on if you fear your child may have a disability due to pre-term birth. The Affordable Care Act helps make sure that children with special medical needs have the health insurance they need to pay for services and treatment throughout their lives. In the CNMI, for children from birth to age 3, programs including Early Intervention Services with the Child Development Assistance Center can help your baby's early development needs. Once they enter school age you can talk with your school about receiving Special Education Services if needed.

I am far too familiar with this process as both my twin sister and I were born premature.

My twin sister and I were born three months premature at 29 weeks and weighed just 2lbs 9oz and 2lbs 10oz. My mother gave birth to us at 33 years old and also had gestational diabetes and was carrying twins. This made her pregnancy high-risk, which ultimately resulted in us being born prematurely. Our parents were told that we'd have many challenges throughout our lives. The doctors told them we could have many complications such as cerebral palsy, blindness, deafness, brain bleeds, developmental delay, learning disabilities, digestion issues, and lung problems from being born so early. We spent two months in the ICU at Magee Women's Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA and were both on ventilators for at least 5-6 weeks. We saw many doctors and specialists after that. Once we arrived home our development was based on our due date. We saw a developmental specialist, our primary physician as well as an eye doctor who had a research program that studies the eyes of premature babies. We were also held back a year in Kindergarten, keeping us in the school year that we would have been in had we been born on time. My sister and I also saw a speech therapist and got put into dance classes to help with our mobility and muscular development. It is because of the early steps my parents took to provide us with the doctors and specialists we needed that we were able to overcome these challenges. Both my sister and I have no disabilities or challenges even though we were told by many doctors we would. Aside from many scars from chest tubes we grew up leading very normal, happy lives.

For more information about where you can get help for a child born with a disability, please visit https://www.marchofdimes.org/complications/long-term-health-effects-of-premature-birth.aspx or contact NMPASI at 235-7273/4 or online at www.nmpasi.org

*Amber Alberts is a client advocate for the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.*

# Tweet Policy Farts Jumps and Starts

**LITERARY NOOK**

**By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.*

What president has ever tweeted so much
accomplished so little with babyish squealing
all his pettiness and narcissism revealing
incompetence ineptitude totally out of touch
totally devoid of reflection about anything
except desire to be totalitarian king of bling
what president has ever left the nation reeling
at the utter nonsense of his pronouncements
strange logic or lack thereof out of his mouth
seeming with little or no thought or foresight
some folks calling him a bottomless Pinocchio
over seven thousand lies in his first two years
sitting in an oval office he has little respect for
piling up shame before he goes out the door.

## Tragic Tweeting Tales

"Notre histoire noble et tragique comme le masque d'un tyran."

**—Guillaume Apollinaire, 1880-1918**

His reign pathetic, tragic
as any would be tyrant
reality TV unreal magic
indifferent to facts, details
abhorrent of common sense

Three generals trying to find
ways to help him steer clear
of boxing himself in now gone
more obstinance, self absorption
where he constantly returns

Tragic tweeting tales
dying in cyberspace.

# We wised up about kids and screens

**By NAOMI SCHAEFER RILEY**
Los Angeles Times

*Naomi Schaefer Riley is a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute studying child welfare issues. Her book* Be the Parent: Stop Banning Seesaws and Start Banning Snapchat *is out in paperback this month.*

In 2014, when I started to write a book about the need to restrict the amount of time our kids spend on screens, the idea was not a popular one. The research I'd done persuaded me to set a tight policy for my own elementary-school children: No television or playing on tablets on weekdays. But I knew my family's rules were considered draconian. And my plan to keep smartphones out of my kids' hands until they were teenagers was practically bonkers.

But after a year like 2018, I'm feeling a lot less countercultural.

I trace the tech backlash of 2018 to the end of 2017 with the publication of Jean Twenge's Atlantic article "Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?" It spread through the mommy blogosphere like wildfire. You could actually watch as the social media conversation moved from "iPads are just like comic books were 50 years ago" to "Wait, why are those suicide numbers so high?"

But an even broader culture shift began in April when Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg testified before Congress. It seemed to finally dawn on our political leaders, and the mothers and fathers watching the hearings, that something was seriously amiss about the business plan—collecting and selling personal data about us and our children—of internet giants like Facebook.

Sen. Richard J. Durbin (D-Ill.) asked Zuckerberg whether he would be comfortable telling the committee the name of the hotel he'd stayed at before the hearings, or if he would be comfortable sharing the names of the people he had messaged that week.

When Zuckerberg declined, Durbin followed up: "I think that may be what this is all about. Your right to privacy. The limits of your right to privacy. And how much you"—he meant all of us—"give away in modern America in the name of, quote, connecting people around the world."

The most obvious data point that "America Is Falling Out of Love With Silicon Valley," as one Bloomberg headline put it, is probably the tumbling stock prices of tech companies. The big five—Facebook, Apple, Amazon, Netflix and Google—lost about a trillion dollars in the fourth quarter. In October came another signal, the release of a study of 4,500 children ages 8 to 11 published in the Lancet Child & Adolescent Health medical journal, which found that limiting kids' screen time was linked to better cognition.

Still, the cultural signs—not the economic and scientific ones—will make the biggest difference. Anyone paying even a little attention last year could have run into news about how tech executives themselves were working hard to keep their own kids off screens. An employee of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative—the nonprofit started by Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, to "leverage technology" for good—told the New York Times "the devil lives in our phones and is wreaking havoc on our children." The former editor of Wired compared screens to "crack cocaine."

There's even bipartisan agreement on the issue. According to an Axios survey, from November 2017 to November 2018, the portion of Democrats who believed social media was hurting democracy and free speech went from 37 percent to 48 percent, and the percentage of Republicans from 52 percent to 69 percent.

The consensus about kids and screens showed up in poll data too. A Pew Research Center survey from August found: 65 percent of parents say their kids spend too much time on devices. The kids agree—54 percent of teens say they spend too much time on their cellphones, and 41 percent say they spend too much time on social media. And more than half of teens "associate the absence of their cellphone with at least one of these three emotions: loneliness, being upset or feeling anxious."

All of this should make it easier for parents to take action, and I've seen signs that they have. The group Wait Until 8th, which advocates that parents put off giving their kids a smartphone until at least eighth grade, saw a big bump in the number of families who signed their pledge last year, from 10,000 to 17,000.

And yet, according to that Pew survey in August, even though parents see the dangers and more than half of teens say they have tried to reduce their screen time, only 57 percent of parents report setting any restrictions on their kids' use of screens.

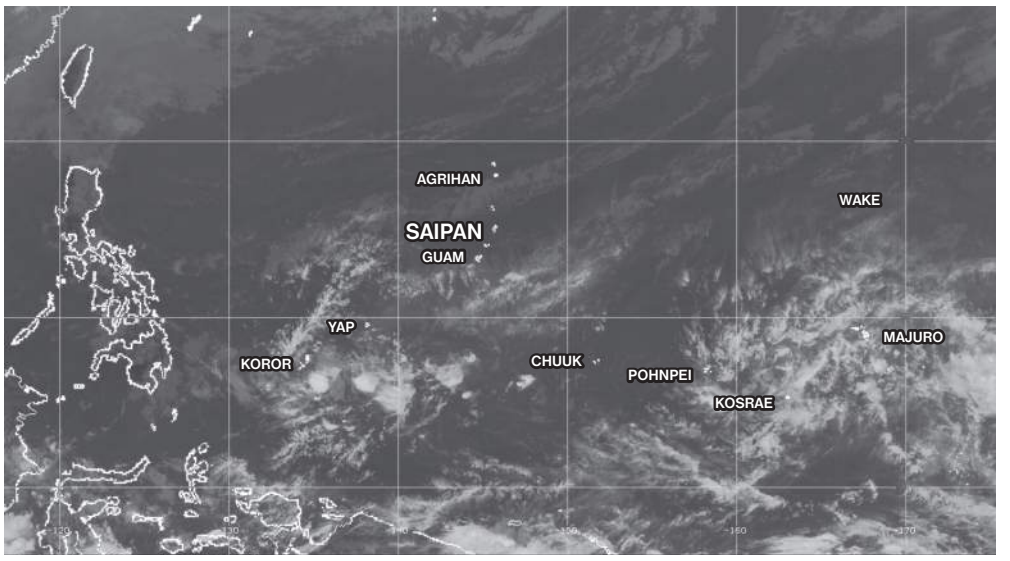
That number should rise. Parents who want to reduce their kids' screen time now have the culture on their side when it comes to making the right call: less time with the phone or gaming system and more face-to-face interaction, more time outside, more physical activity, more family dinners, more book reading, more board games. The zeitgeist is shifting, take advantage of it.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. | Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. |
| 89° 77° | 89° 77° | 88° 77° | 88° 77° | 88° 77° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 7:40 AM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Overall, the current forecast looks good, and the next several days look to be mainly dry. There is a but more moisture around, so there could be some isolated showers, but that is it. As we go into the weekend, what looked to be potentially wet now looks much drier. The reason for the change is because the tropical disturbance that is the remnants of Tropical Depression 01W is moving very slowly and as a result of the slower speed it will move south of Guam (and most likely south of 10N) on Monday or Tuesday instead of this weekend. Most of the guidance does not develop this system and with a fairly weak system and south track, there is a question as to how much rain we will get. But, for now, have left the scattered showers in for Monday and Tuesday, as there could at least be a period or two during those days.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Showers | 85° / 77° |
| Palau | Partly Cloudy | 83° / 77° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 85° / 79° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 84° / 79° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 84° / 78° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 84° / 78° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 84° / 80° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | 75° / 64° |
| Beijing | Mostly Sunny | 45° / 19° |
| Hong Kong | Partly Cloudy | 72° / 64° |
| Honolulu | Showers | 81° / 68° |
| London | Cloudy | 46° / 39° |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | 66° / 52° |
| Manila | Partly Cloudy | 88° / 73° |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | 72° / 54° |
| Miami | Cloudy | 78° / 54° |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 37° / 24° |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 52° / 36° |
| Paris | Showers | 45° / 39° |
| Busan | Mostly Sunny | 52° / 39° |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | 52° / 30° |
| Salem | Sunny | 51° / 30° |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 57° / 50° |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 43° / 25° |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | 54° / 34° |
| Washington, DC | Sunny | 38° / 28° |

**NMI CRIME STOPPERS**
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 4:14 AM | HIGH TIDE | -0.12 |
| 11:13 AM | LOW TIDE | 1.84 |
| 5:03 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.14 |
| 9:33 PM | LOW TIDE | 1.66 |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:45 AM | 6:02 PM |
| Friday | 6:45 AM | 6:03 PM |
| Saturday | 6:46 AM | 6:04 PM |
| Sunday | 6:46 AM | 6:04 PM |
| Monday | 6:46 AM | 6:05 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 9:35 AM | 9:27 PM | - |
| Friday | 10:14 AM | 10:15 PM | - |
| Saturday | 10:52 AM | 11:02 PM | - |
| Sunday | 11:29 AM | 11:50 PM | - |
| Monday | 12:07 AM | - | - |

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 20, 2018

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 9:15am | 9:55am | Daily |
| UA105 | 4:45pm | 5:25pm | 2, 4 |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3451 | 3:15am | 6:30am | Daily |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ626 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ626 | 2:50am | 6:40am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| 7C3401 | 4:30pm | 8:25pm | Daily |

***TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED:***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW9308 | 1:10am | 4:10am | 3, 4 |
| TW308 | 1:35am | 5:20am | Daily |
| TW9308 | 3:20am | 6:30am | 2 |
| TW9308 | 3:25am | 6:30am | 5 |
| 7C3403 | 4:35am | 8:25am | Daily |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U86486:10am | | 8:50am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JD396 | 7:30am | 11:00am | 1 |
| JD396 | 4:50pm | 7:55pm | 4 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8646 | 4:30am | 7:55am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU764 | 1:30am | 6:35am | 3, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117/183 | 9:15am | 9:40pm | 2, 5 via GUM |
| UA117/183 via GUM | 9:15am | 9:50pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA117/193 GUM-ROR | 9:15am | 11:50pm | 2, 5 via |
| UA105/183 | 4:45pm | 9:40pm | 2 via GUM |
| UA105/183 | 4:45pm | 9:50pm | 4 via GUM |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HX077 | 1:50am | 5:15am | 1, 4 |
| OZ626/721 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/721 | 2:50am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UO43 | 5:45am | 8:40am | 1, 3, 5, 7 |
| UA117/159 | 9:15am | 11:00pm | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM |
| UA105/159 | 4:45pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4 via GUM |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 7:30am | 8:11am | Daily |
| UA104 | 3:00pm | 3:41pm | 2, 4 |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3452 | 9:35pm | 2:00am+1 | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| 7C3452 | 10:05pm | 2:00am+1 | 1 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3402 | 10:10am | 3:30pm | Daily |
| OZ625 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| OZ625 | 8:20pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |

***TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED:***

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TW9307 | 6:30pm | 12:10am+1 | 2, 3 |
| TW307 | 7:00pm | 12:35am+1 | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| TW307 | 7:05pm | 12:35am+1 | 1 |
| TW9307 | 9:00pm | 2:20am+1 | 1 |
| TW9307 | 9:05pm | :25am+1 | 4 |
| 7C3404 | 10:10pm | 3:40am+1 | Daily |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8647 | 10:20pm | 4:50am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| JD395 | 8:05am | 3:30pm | 4 |
| JD395 | 9:35pm | 5:00am+1 | 7 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8645 | 7:55pm | 2:40am+1 | 1, 5 |

**BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU763 | 4:40pm | 12:30am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA182/174 | 12:40am | 8:11am+1 | 3, 6 via GUM |
| PR110/UA174 | 10:05pm | 8:11am+1 | Daily via GUM |
| UA192/174 | 10:30pm | 8:11am+1 | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR |
| UA184/174 | 10:55pm | 8:11am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |

**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ722/625 | 1:15pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/625 | 1:15pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| HX076 | 5:15pm | 12:15am+1 | 3, 7 |
| UO42 | 6:50pm | 1:45am+1 | 7 |
| UO42 | 9:30pm | 4:25am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |
| UA116/174 | 11:45pm | 8:11am+1 | 2, 4 via GUM |
| UA116/174 | 11:55pm | 8:11am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 7:30AM | 8:00AM | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:30AM | 12:00PM | Daily |
| 1303 | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 8:15AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 3102 | 1:45PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 3103 | 4:45PM | 5:15PM | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:15PM | 12:45PM | Daily |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 1:00PM | 1:30PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | 7:00AM | 7:15AM | Daily |
| 1202 | 8:00AM | 8:15AM | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00AM | 9:15AM | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00AM | 10:15AM | Daily |
| 1205 | 11:00AM | 11:15AM | Daily |
| 1206 | 12:00PM | 12:15PM | Daily |
| 1207 | 1:00PM | 1:15PM | Daily |
| 1208 | 2:00PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 1209 | 3:00PM | 3:15PM | Daily |
| 1210 | 4:00PM | 4:15PM | Daily |
| 1211 | 5:00PM | 5:15PM | Daily |
| 1212 | 6:00PM | 6:15PM | Daily |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2102 | 7:30AM | 7:45AM | Daily |
| 2103 | 8:30AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 2104 | 9:30AM | 9:45AM | Daily |
| 2105 | 10:30AM | 10:45AM | Daily |
| 2106 | 11:30AM | 11:45AM | Daily |
| 2107 | 12:30PM | 12:45PM | Daily |
| 2108 | 1:30PM | 1:45PM | Daily |
| 2109 | 2:30PM | 2:45PM | Daily |
| 2110 | 3:30PM | 3:45PM | Daily |
| 2111 | 4:30PM | 4:45PM | Daily |
| 2112 | 5:30PM | 5:45PM | Daily |
| 2113 | 6:30PM | 6:45PM | Daily |

# Business

# USDA: Food stamps will be funded through February

**WASHINGTON (**AP)—The Trump administration says benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps, will be funded through February should the government shutdown continue.

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue is asking states to issue the February benefits on or before Jan. 20 so that they can be paid to the nearly 40 million Americans in the program. SNAP is already fully funded for January.

The administration announced its plans as the White House worked to limit Republican defections on spending bills in the House this week, which Democratic leaders have scheduled in hopes of driving a wedge between GOP lawmakers on the shutdown. Democrats set a vote for Thursday on the agriculture bill, which is largely made up of payments for food stamps, knowing that it would put pressure on Republicans to abandon their leaders and vote for the measure.

The USDA said it can fund SNAP through February thanks to the short-term funding bill that ran out on Dec. 22. That bill included a provision giving federal agencies the authority to make obligated payments to support certain programs for 30 days after its expiration date.

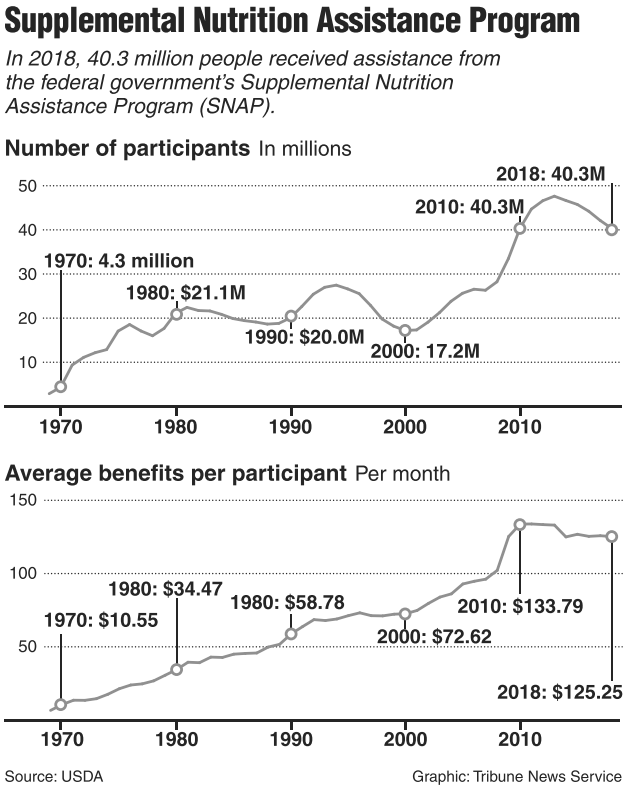
Brandon Lipps, an acting deputy undersecretary, said other USDA programs will also be funded through February, including school lunches, food distribution programs on Indian reservations and child nutrition programs. The latter includes WIC, which provides nutritional assistance to pregnant women, mothers and babies.

Under the provision, the SNAP program will operate as it normally does and without any lapse in service, but with an earlier deadline for states to request benefits through a process called early issuance. That process is typically used during natural disasters, Lipps said, enabling states anticipating hurricanes or other weather events to distribute monthly benefits ahead of time.

Lipps said the USDA is sending letters to all state agencies to explain the process and will issue a blanket waiver of department regulations to allow for the early issuance.

AP

Migrants mainly from Mexico and Central America look on as U.S. President Donald Trump gives a prime-time address about border security Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019, watching from a border migrant shelter in Tijuana, Mexico.




## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### World Bank cuts forecast for world economic growth in 2019

**WASHINGTON (**AP)—The World Bank is downgrading its outlook for the global economy this year, citing rising trade tension, weakening manufacturing activity and growing financial stress in emerging-market countries. In a report titled "Darkening Skies," the anti-poverty agency said Tuesday that it expects the world economy to grow 2.9 percent in 2019, down from the 3 percent it forecast back in June. It would be the second straight year of slowing growth: The global economy expanded 3 percent last year and 3.1 percent in 2017. "Global growth is slowing, and the risks are rising," Ayhan Kose, the World Bank economist who oversees forecasts, said in an interview. "In 2017, the global economy was pretty much firing on all cylinders. In 2018, the engines started sputtering." The bank left its forecast for the U.S. economy unchanged at 2.5 percent this year, down from 2.9 percent in 2018. It predicts 1.6 percent growth for the 19 countries that use the euro currency, down from 1.9 percent last year; and 6.2 percent growth for China, the world's second-biggest economy, versus 6.5 percent in 2018. The bank upgraded expectations for the Japanese economy, lifting its growth forecast to 0.9 percent, up from 0.8 percent in 2018. President Donald Trump, declaring that years of U.S. support for free trade had cost America jobs, last year slapped import taxes on foreign dishwashers, solar panels, steel, aluminum and $250 billion in Chinese products. Other countries retaliated with tariffs of their own in disputes that have yet to be resolved.

### Sears gets another reprieve from liquidation

**NEW YORK (**AP)—Sears received another possible lifeline Tuesday when the company's chairman and largest shareholder promised to line up the necessary financing to keep the struggling department store chain afloat. The reprieve came after what Sears lawyers described to a bankruptcy judge in New York as "round-the-clock" negotiations following the company board's initial rejection of Eddie Lampert's proposal, which sought to preserve 425 stores and 50,000 workers. According to lawyers close to the matter, one of the main sticking points was that the bid didn't include cash. The revised version now requires Lampert to deposit $120 million by 4 p.m. Wednesday through his ESL hedge fund. The fate of Sears remains to be determined. Lampert's bid will go to an auction set for Jan. 14 and will compete with other bids from liquidators looking to shut down the company. A committee of unsecured creditors has been pushing for straight liquidation and believes there are litigation claims against ESL for prior transactions. In a statement emailed to The Associated Press, ESL said it "appreciates the encouragement from the court and the constructive engagement of the debtors as we work to formalize our going concern proposal so that it can be evaluated at the upcoming auction."

### California bill would require businesses to offer e-receipts

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (**AP)—California would become the first state to require businesses to offer electronic receipts unless customers ask for paper copies under legislation proposed on Tuesday. Many businesses and consumers already are moving toward e-receipts, said Democratic Assemblyman Phil Ting of San Francisco. But he said a law is needed because many consumers don't realize most paper receipts are coated with chemicals prohibited in baby bottles, can't be recycled and can contaminate other recycled paper because of the chemicals known as Bisphenol-A (BPA) and Bisphenol-S (BPS). His bill would require all businesses to provide proof of purchase receipts electronically starting in 2022 unless a customer asks for a printed copy. It comes days after another first-in-the-nation California law took effect requiring dine-in restaurants to provide straws only at customers' request.

## UK Parliament moves to make 'no-deal' Brexit more difficult

**LONDON (**AP)—Britain's Parliament narrowly approved financial roadblocks that are designed to make it more difficult for the country to leave the European Union without a Brexit deal, giving a defeat to Prime Minister Theresa May's government Tuesday.

Lawmakers voted 303-296 to back a Finance Bill amendment that would prohibit government spending on "no-deal" Brexit preparations that Parliament didn't authorize.

The vote in the House of Commons illustrated the substantial opposition to the real possibility of Britain withdrawing from the EU on March 29 without a divorce agreement in place on the terms of its relationship with the remaining members.

Business leaders and some economists have predicted disruption in the lives of U.K. residents and financial damage if that happens. Without a trade deal in place, Britain could see tariffs slapped on its exports to the EU and possible food and medicine shortages.

But Britain has been headed in that direction because May has so far been unable to persuade a majority in Parliament to back the divorce deal her government negotiated with the EU.

Concerns about the risks of a "no-deal" scenario has prompted talk of postponing Brexit day and even calling another referendum on Britain's EU membership.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition Labour Party, said the spending restriction lawmakers passed was "an important step to prevent a no-deal Brexit."

Earlier Tuesday, a government minister ruled out Britain seeking an extension to its March 29 date for leaving the EU. The date was based on the two-year breakup period that started when May gave official notice Britain was pulling out.

## STOCK PORTFOLIO

## LEADING INDICATORS

| DOW | S&P | NASDAQ |
|---|---|---|
| 23,787.45 | 2,574.41 | 6,897.00 |
| +256.10 | +24.72 | +73.53 |
| +1.09% | +0.97% | +1.08% |

## EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australian Dollar | 1.40 | Hong Kong Dollar | 7.84 | Russian Ruble | 66.79 |
| British Pound | 0.7848 | Indian Rupee | 70.47 | Singapore Dollar | 1.36 |
| Canadian Dollar | 1.32 | Indonesian Rupiah | 14,167.50 | South Korean Won | 1121.82 |
| Chinese Yuan | 6.84 | Malaysian Ringgit | 4.11 | Swiss Franc | 0.98 |
| Euro | 0.8727 | New Zealand Dollar | 1.48 | Taiwan Dollar | 30.82 |
| | | Philippine Peso | 52.42 | Thailand Baht | 32.03 |

# TRUCKLOAD STORE direct from KMART

Customers First TRIPLE J

**STORE HOURS: WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 11AM–8PM • SATURDAY 9AM–8PM • SUNDAY 11AM–6PM • AMAZING DEALS ON DAILY ESSENTIALS, QUALITY BRANDS AND MUST-HAVE ELECTRONICS!**

AT&T 3 HANDSET CORDLESS ANSWERING SYSTEM CL82315
$119.95

$179.95 CRAFTSMAN 320 PC MECHANIC TOOL SET

GPX BOOM BOX CASSETTE CD/RADIO BCA 206S
$69.95

$139.95 LG BP350 BLUE-RAY PLAYER WIFI

4SGM - PREMIUM ARTIFICIAL 9.84 FT GRASS
$29.95

HAWAIIAN COLLECTION FUTON, FULL SIZE
$159.95

$25.95 ELICO 16" ELECTRO-PLATED METAL CLOCK

EH 30 LITER STAINLESS STEEL TRASH CAN
$45.95

$27.95 EH BLACK TRK TREE FLOOR LAMP

$25.95 EXPANDABLE BOARDING LUGGAGE

$6.95 GARDEN SPADE SHOVEL

$74.95 EH BELMONT 4 -DRAWER CHEST

ELICO - CRACKLED LONG PANEL MIRROR 11.5" x 45.5"
$16.95

KENMORE 5,000 BTU WINDOW A/C
$199.95

PRIMO WATER DISPENSER
$199.95

DAHDOUL - EMIRATES 5'3" x 7'2" RUG
$45.95

DHP FOLDING GUEST BED
$149.95

DAHDOUL 27" x 54" STANDARD TOWEL
$4.95

$159.95 MEGAMASTER 22.5 CHARCOAL KETTLE GRILL

DIRT DEVIL DIRECT POWER UPRIGHT VACUUM
$95.95

KENMORE 3.1 CUFT COMPACT REFRIGERATOR 99042
$199.95

IGLOO WHEELIE COOL 38QT 53 CANS COOLER
$49.95

WESLO 3.0 CARDIO STRIDE MANUAL TREADMILL
$159.95

EH CAYMAN 5PC HIGH TOP DINING SET
$299.95

$199.95 COSTCO LIFT & STROLL TRAVEL SYSTEM SAFARI

$49.95 BEBEMIO - SUNKIDS UMBRELLA STROLLER

HOMZ IRONING BOARD
$32.95

ELICO - RELIGIOUS ART 16.5" x 21"
$16.95

$59.95 CRYSTAL - BETTER CHEF 1100W VARI-SPEED BLENDER

$15.95 COLEMAN 9QT 9 CANS EXCURSION COOLER

CAR MATS 4PC 43.5 x 32cm / 44.5 x 62.5 cm
$6.95

COSCO DELUXE VINYL FOLDING CHAIRS BLACK
$26.95

DAHDOUL - BAMBOO STYLE BOUTIQUE PILLOW 20" x 28"
$11.95

LINON DAHLIA 5PC HIGH DINING SET
$319.95

SPORTSPOWER GROVEPARK
$189.95

Customers First TRIPLE J FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN

Scan QR code to LIKE our Facebook page and get the latest deals and products!

**For more info, please call: 322-0430**

Pacific Express · American Express · MasterCard · VISA · JCB · DISCOVER NETWORK

# Nation

## Trump pleads on TV for wall money; Dems say he 'stokes fear'

AP
In this image from video, President Donald Trump speaks during a televised address from the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019.

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—In a somber televised plea, President Donald Trump urged congressional Democrats to fund his long-promised border wall Tuesday night, blaming illegal immigration for the scourge of drugs and violence in the U.S. and framing the debate over the partial government shutdown in stark terms. "This is a choice between right and wrong," he declared.

Democrats in response accused Trump appealing to "fear, not facts" and manufacturing a border crisis for political gain.

Addressing the nation from the Oval Office for the first time, Trump argued for spending some $5.7 billion for a border wall on both security and humanitarian grounds as he sought to put pressure on newly empowered Democrats amid the extended shutdown.

Trump, who will visit the Mexican border in person on Thursday, invited the Democrats to return to the White House to meet with him on Wednesday, saying it was "immoral" for "politicians to do nothing." Previous meetings have led to no agreement as Trump insists on the wall that was his signature promise in the 2016 presidential campaign.

Responding in their own televised remarks, Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer accused Trump of misrepresenting the situation on the border as they urged him to reopen closed government departments and turn loose paychecks for hundreds of thousands of workers.

Negotiations on wall funding could proceed in the meantime, they said.

Schumer said Trump "just used the backdrop of the Oval Office to manufacture a crisis, stoke fear and divert attention from the turmoil in his administration."

Overall, Trump largely restated his case for the wall without offering concessions or new ideas on how to resolve the standoff that has kept large swaths of the government closed for the past 18 days. Speaking in solemn tones from behind the Resolute Desk, he painted a dire picture of killings and drug deaths he argues come from unchecked illegal immigration.

Trump ticked off a string of statistics and claims to make his case that there is a crisis at the border, but a number of his statements were misleading, such as saying the new trade deal with Mexico would pay for the wall, or suggesting through gruesome examples that immigrants are more likely to commit crime.

Shifting between empathetic appeals and the dark immigration rhetoric that was a trademark of his presidential campaign, Trump asked: "How much more American blood must we shed before Congress does its job?"

Trump, who has long railed against illegal immigration at the border, has recently seized on humanitarian concerns to argue there is a broader crisis that can only be solved with a wall. But critics say the security risks are overblown and the administration is at least partly to blame for the humanitarian situation.

Trump used emotional language, referring to Americans who were killed by people in the country illegally, saying: "I've met with dozens of families whose loved ones were stolen by illegal immigration. I've held the hands of the weeping mothers and embraced the grief-stricken fathers. So sad. So terrible."

The president often highlights such incidents, though studies over several years have found immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than people born in the United States.

Trump has been discussing the idea of declaring a national emergency to allow him to move forward with the wall without getting congressional approval for the billions he's requested. But he did not mention that Tuesday night.

## Asylum seekers find it's catch and can't release fast enough

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—President Donald Trump says he has ended "catch-and-release" for asylum seekers, but in cities on the U.S. border with Mexico it is catch and can't release fast enough.

Since late October, the U.S. has been releasing asylum-seeking families so quickly they don't even have time to make travel arrangements, which it blames on lack of detention space. Families are often given court dates without even having to pass initial screenings by asylum officers. They end up in shelters run by charities, or are dropped off at bus stations in border cities.

For one Salvadoran family that dizzying series of events began when their 7-year-old daughter, Yariza Flores, landed on barbed wire after being hoisted over a border fence during their illegal crossing last month. She was rushed to a San Diego hospital to stop profuse bleeding.

Just four days later, U.S. authorities dropped her off at a San Diego shelter with her parents and 3-year-old brother. They had no money, the clothes on their backs and an order given to them during their stint in U.S. custody to appear in immigration court in Houston, where they planned to live with Yariza's grandmother and two aunts. They didn't even have time to arrange for relatives to buy bus tickets before they were released.

"I feel happy because we're finally here, we're finally going to see my family," the girl's mother, Tania Escobar, said in the shelter dining hall after a meal of shredded chicken, rice and beans. Her daughter sat nearby, all smiles, wearing a silver crown that a Border Patrol agent gave her and holding a stuffed animal from a doctor who treated the severe cuts on her lower back.

From California to Arizona to Texas, volunteers are scrambling to help families until they can arrange transportation to relatives across the U.S. The San Diego Rapid Response Network , an advocacy coalition that runs the shelter that housed Yariza and her family, has served more than 4,000 people since opening in a church in late October, moving five times since then because it ran out of space.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement often coordinates with these shelters. On the December night that Yariza arrived, ICE brought 125 people in buses that came every half-hour. One night during Christmas week, the facility received 180 people, forcing it to use a church for the overflow.

The situation belies Trump's assertion, in a November tweet, that "Catch and Release is an obsolete term. It is now Catch and Detain."

The Trump administration announced Dec. 20 that it would make asylum seekers who enter the U.S. on its southern border wait in Mexico while their claims wind through clogged immigration courts, which can take years. But that "catch and return" policy has yet to take effect while the two countries work on mechanics; a legal challenge appears likely.

So, for now, many asylum-seeking families are being released in the U.S. before even they are ready. ICE dropped off hundreds of people daily at a bus station in El Paso, Texas, over the holidays. In Tucson, Arizona, charities have rented motel rooms when shelters are full.

## Comatose woman who gave birth is Arizona tribe member

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Police served a search warrant Tuesday to get DNA from all male employees at a long-term care facility in Phoenix where a patient who had been in a vegetative state for years gave birth, triggering reviews by state agencies and putting a spotlight on safety concerns for patients who are severely disabled or incapacitated.

Hacienda HealthCare said it welcomed the DNA testing of employees.

"We will continue to cooperate with Phoenix Police and all other investigative agencies to uncover the facts in this deeply disturbing, but unprecedented situation," the company said in a statement.

Local news website Azfamily.com first reported the woman, who had been in a vegetative state for more than 10 years after a near-drowning, delivered a baby on Dec. 29.

San Carlos Apache officials announced Tuesday night that the 29-year-old woman was an enrolled member of the tribe, whose reservation is in southeastern Arizona about 134 miles (215 kilometers) east of Phoenix.

In a statement, tribal officials said the woman was still in a coma when she gave birth.

The woman's name was redacted from the tribal statement, and there was no information about the gender or status of the baby. It's not known if the woman has a family or a guardian. It's also unclear if staff members at the facility were aware of her pregnancy until the birth.

"On behalf of the tribe, I am deeply shocked and horrified at the treatment of one of our members," tribal chairman Terry Rambler said. "When you have a loved one committed to palliative care, when they are most vulnerable and dependent upon others, you trust their caretakers. Sadly, one of her caretakers was not to be trusted and took advantage of her. It is my hope that justice will be served."

San Carlos Apache Police Chief Alejandro Benally said Phoenix police "will do all they can to find the perpetrator" and his department will assist "in any way possible."

A spokesman for Hacienda HealthCare said investigators served a search warrant Tuesday to obtain DNA samples from all male staffers.

In a statement, board member Gary Orman said the facility "will accept nothing less than a full accounting of this absolutely horrifying situation."

"We will do everything in our power to ensure the safety of every single one of our patients and our employees," Orman said.

Hacienda CEO Bill Timmons stepped down Monday, spokesman David Leibowitz said. The decision was unanimously accepted by the provider's board of directors.

Gov. Doug Ducey's office has called the situation "deeply troubling."

Phoenix police so far have declined comment.

The Hacienda facility serves infants, children and young adults who are "medically fragile" or have developmental disabilities, according to the website. In the wake of the reports, the Arizona Department of Health Services said new safety measures have been implemented. They include increased staff presence during any patient interaction, more monitoring of patient care areas and additional security measures involving visitors.

# Asia

# Kim Jong Un's motorcade heads out on day 2 of China trip

**BEIJING** (AP)—The motorcade of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un headed out Wednesday morning to an unannounced destination on the second full day of a visit to China that has been shrouded in secrecy but is seen as part of preparations for a possible second summit with President Donald Trump.

Kim could not be seen but the limousine he uses was observed zipping east down a main thoroughfare in Beijing and then returning about an hour later.

South Korea's Yonhap News Agency said Kim visited a technology development zone and spent around 20-30 minutes touring a factory run by famed traditional Chinese medicine maker Tong Ren Tang.

His trip to China, the fourth in the past 10 months, is believed to be an effort to coordinate with his only major ally ahead of a possible second meeting with Trump. It comes after U.S. and North Korean officials are thought to have met in Vietnam to discuss the site of the summit.

North Korean and Chinese state media announced his visit shortly in advance of his arrival, in a break with standard protocol dictating such trips are only confirmed after they happen. However, neither side has provided details of what he has done since arriving aboard his personal armored train on Tuesday morning.

Yonhap said Kim met with President Xi Jinping for about an hour on Tuesday and later attended a dinner at the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing hosted by Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan. Kim was accompanied by his wife, Ri Sol Ju, the agency said.

At Tuesday's daily Foreign Ministry briefing, spokesman Lu Kang gave said details of Kim's visit would be released "in due course." He said Beijing remains supportive of efforts to end tensions over U.S. demands for a halt to North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

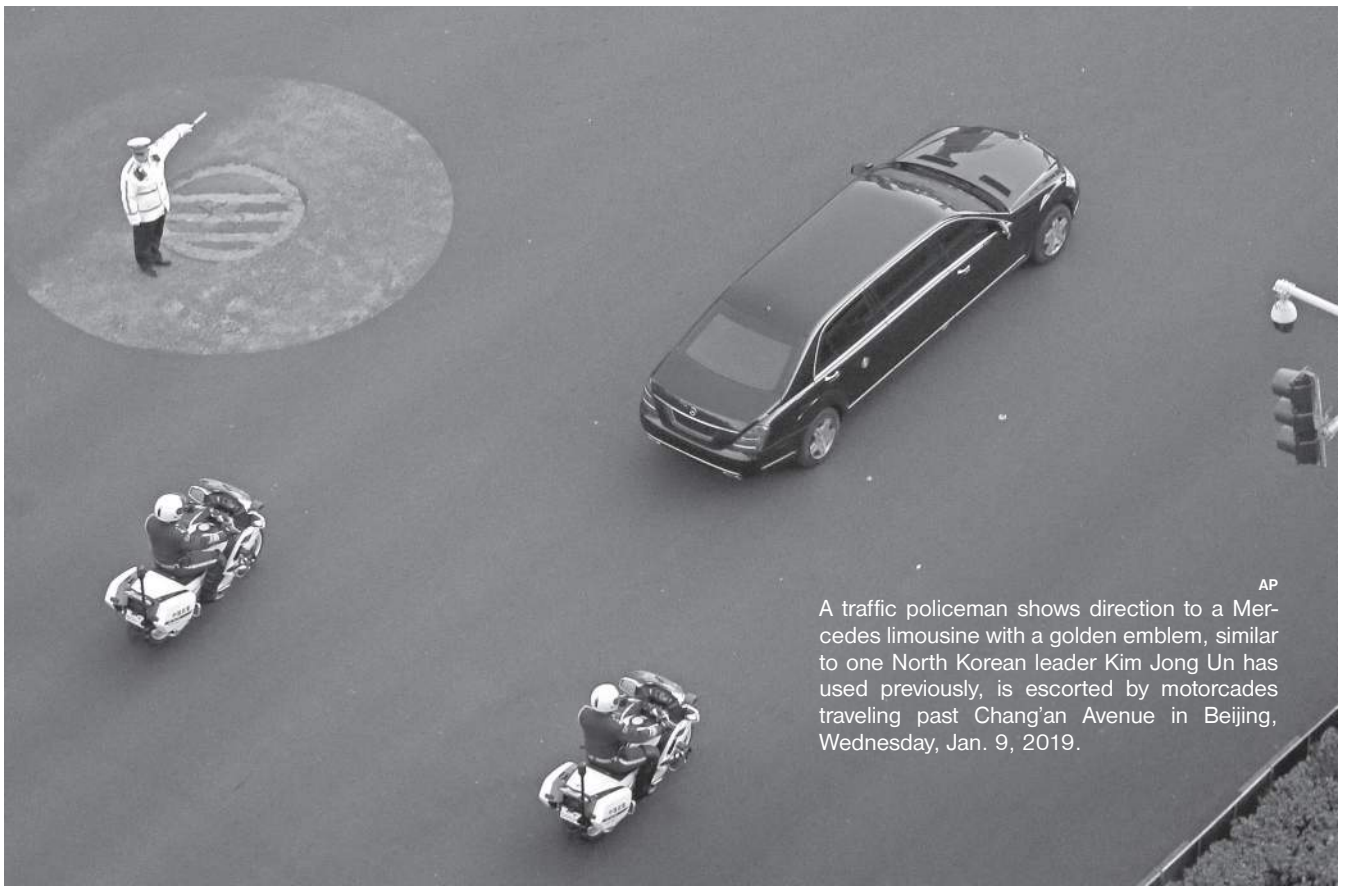
"We always believe that, as key parties to the Korean Peninsula issue, it's important for the two sides to maintain contact and we always support their dialogue to achieve positive outcomes," Lu said.

Tuesday was also Kim's birthday. His visit is also seen as part of an effort to win Chinese support for a reduction of U.N. sanctions imposed over his nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs that have severely impacted his country's already ailing economy.

While North Korea hasn't conducted any launches or detonations in more than a year, it's displayed no real intention of abandoning the programs that are seen as guaranteeing the hard-line communist regime's survival.

Kim's visit also comes after he expressed frustration in his annual New Year's address over the lack of progress in negotiations with Washington since the Singapore summit with Trump in June, saying that if things don't improve — meaning that if sanctions relief and security guarantees aren't in the offing —Pyongyang might have to find "a new way" forward.

While Trump says he considers Xi key to enticing Kim into taking concrete steps toward denuclearization, the president's own relationship with his Chinese counterpart has frayed over the U.S.-China trade war.



AP

A traffic policeman shows direction to a Mercedes limousine with a golden emblem, similar to one North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has used previously, is escorted by motorcades traveling past Chang'an Avenue in Beijing, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Taiwan announces new-look military drills to counter China

**BEIJING** (AP)—Taiwan's military has announced a series of newly designed large-scale military drills for this year in response to China's continuing threat to use force to gain control over the island. While Taiwan's armed forces regularly hold such exercises, the official Central News Agency quoted Defense Ministry planning chief Maj. Gen. Yeh Kuo-hui as saying this year's drills are "being drafted based on newly adopted tactics for defending against a possible Chinese invasion." China claims sovereignty over U.S. ally Taiwan, which split from the mainland amid civil war in 1949. Chinese President Xi Jinping renewed the threat of force in his Jan. 2 message to the island, saying China reserved that right if necessary to counter interference by external forces and what he called an extremely small number of Taiwanese separatists.

### Australia police examining suspicious packages at consulates

**SYDNEY** (AP)—Several foreign consulates were evacuated in the Australian cities of Melbourne and Canberra on Wednesday after they received suspicious packages. Police, fire crews and ambulances were seen at a number of diplomatic offices in Melbourne, including those of India, Germany, Italy, Spain and South Korea. The government Vic Emergency website noted at least 10 "hazardous material" incidents in the city. "The circumstances surrounding these incidents are being investigated," the Australian Federal Police said in a statement. The Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported suspicious packages were also found at the Melbourne consulates of the United States, Switzerland, Pakistan and New Zealand, and possibly those of Greece, France, and Hong Kong. It was not immediately known which countries' diplomatic missions in the national capital, Canberra, were affected. The ABC reported one New Zealand consulate worker had said the packages in question were envelopes labelled "asbestos." Inside were plastic sandwich bags containing a fibrous material.

### S. Korea freezes Japan company assets over forced labor spat

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—A South Korean district court said Wednesday it has decided to freeze the local assets of a Japanese company involved in compensation disputes for wartime Korean laborers. Last October, South Korea's top court ordered Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp. to pay 100 million won ($88,000) each to four plaintiffs forced to work for the company when Japan colonized the Korean Peninsula from 1910-45. The Daegu District Court's branch office in the southeastern city of Pohang said Wednesday it had approved a request by lawyers for the plaintiffs to seize Korean assets held by the Japanese company as it was refusing to compensate the former laborers. Japan maintains all colonial-era compensation issues were settled by a 1965 treaty between the governments. The Japanese company holds 2.34 million shares, or around $9.7 million, in its joint venture in Pohang with South Korean steelmaker POSCO. South Korea's Yonhap news agency, citing an unidentified official at the Pohang office, reported the district court decided to freeze 81,075 of the 2.34 million shares, not the whole shares. Yonhap said the asset freeze will become effective after a related court document is delivered to the joint venture.

# Thai, Saudi officials meet over case of young Saudi woman

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Thailand's immigration police chief met Tuesday with officials from the Saudi Embassy in Bangkok, as Saudi Arabia tried to distance itself from accusations that it attempted to block a young woman's effort to flee from her family and seek asylum abroad.

Rahaf Mohammed Alqunun arrived in Bangkok from Kuwait late Saturday after slipping away from her family, whom she accused of abusing her. The 18-year-old was stopped by officials in Thailand who confiscated her passport.

Her urgent pleas for help over Twitter from an airport hotel room garnered tens of thousands of followers and the attention of the U.N.'s refugee agency, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Public pressure prompted Thai officials to return her passport and let her temporarily stay in Thailand.

Alqunun alleged several times that Saudi officials were involved in seizing her passport. However, in repeated statements, including one issued Tuesday, the Saudi Embassy in Thailand said it is only monitoring her situation.

Its latest statement, which described Alqunun's case as a "family affair," said Saudi Arabia did not demand her deportation back home. The embassy—and Thai officials—earlier also said that Alqunun was stopped by Thai authorities in Bangkok because she did not have a return ticket, a hotel reservation or itinerary to show she was a tourist, which appeared to have raised a red flag about the reasons for her trip.

Rahaf Mohammed Alqunun leaves her airport hotel room for temporary admission into Thailand on Jan 7, 2019. (AP video)

Thailand's immigration police chief, Maj. Gen. Surachate Hakparn, told reporters Tuesday that Saudi diplomats told him they are satisfied with how her case had been handled.

"The position of two countries on this matter is the same—that the priority is to provide her safety. We are both concerned for Miss Rahaf's safety and well-being," Surachate said.

He said Alqunun's father and brother were due to arrive soon in Bangkok, but that it was her decision whether to meet with them. On Twitter, she has expressed fear of such a meeting. The father had previously been expected Monday night.

A spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees at its Geneva headquarters, Babar Baloch, said it could take several days for the agency to look into Alqunun's claims. He said it was "too early to tell" if she will be granted asylum or refugee status.

Baloch noted the power of social media in making her plight a matter that officials could not ignore.

"For us, all individual cases are alike. It's different the way we get access to those individuals ... (what's) different in this case is the wave of all of the voices of solidarity and support came together, joined up in terms of caring for this individual," he said. "This should be the standard for any individual who claims that his or her life is in danger."

# World

## As Congo delays election results, people's suspicions rise

AP
Congolese riot police take position around the electoral commission building at night in Kinshasa, Congo, Tuesday Jan. 8, 2019.

**KINSHASA, Congo** (AP)— As Congo anxiously awaits the outcome of the presidential election, many in the capital, Kinshasa, say they are convinced the opposition won and that the delay in announcing results is allowing manipulation in favor of the ruling party.

Leading opposition candidate Martin Fayulu in an interview with The Associated Press late Tuesday warned Congo's electoral commission to "not play with fire, it is very dangerous" and release the true results as quickly as possible.

Several dozen anti-riot police gathered outside the commission before midnight as it met to discuss the results compiled so far.

Since the Dec. 30 vote, the government has cut internet service in this vast Central African country to prevent speculation on social media about who won and blocked some radio stations. But it cannot stop lively debate on the ground.

"We are the voters, we know who we have voted for and we know the opposition has won," said Hubert Mende, 55, a teacher. "Only Martin Fayulu or Felix Tshisekedi's names can be accepted. If the official result does not reflect the truth, there will be a crisis," he added, as a crowd of two dozen people at a newsstand nodded.

False results will be taken as a "declaration of war against the people," said Heritier Bono, 25, a motorcycle taxi driver. "The reaction will not be only in Kinshasa, it will be all over the country."

The electoral commission on Sunday announced an indefinite delay in releasing the first results of the vote, frustrating many in this country that is rich in the minerals key to the world's smartphones, laptops and electric cars. The election itself was delayed for more than two years, sparking sometimes violent protests as people called on President Joseph Kabila, in power since 2001, to step aside.

Many have seen this election as Congo's first chance at a democratic, peaceful transfer of power since independence in 1960. But one Congolese election observer group, Symocel, on Tuesday reported "major irregularities" including the disappearance of envelopes containing results from nearly 120 polling stations in Kinshasa, an opposition stronghold.

Amid fears of unrest in recent days, the U.S. has deployed some 80 military personnel to the region to protect U.S. citizens and diplomatic assets in Congo from possible "violent demonstrations."

Congo's powerful Catholic Church has upped the stakes by saying it found a clear winner from data compiled by its 40,000 observers deployed to all polling stations. Voting regulations prohibit anyone but the electoral commission from announcing results. The church has urged the commission to announce accurate ones.

Congo's ruling party responded angrily, calling the church's announcement "anarchist," and the electoral commission accused the church of "preparing an uprising." The church replied by saying that only the release of false results would incite an uprising.

"I am serene," the church's secretary general, the Rev. Donatien Nshole, told The Associated Press in an interview, responding to the commission's accusation that it violated regulations. "We said there was a winner but we did not mention any name nor give any figures."

## Turkey slams US request for assurances on Syrian Kurds

**ANKARA, Turkey** (AP)— Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused the U.S. national security adviser of making "a very serious mistake" Tuesday by demanding that Ankara guarantee the safety of Kurdish fighters in northeastern Syria before the U.S. withdraws its troops from the war-torn country.

A strained morning of negotiation in Turkey ended without assurances of protection for forces that fought alongside U.S. troops against the Islamic State group, and indeed brought them fresh new threats from Turkey. The diplomatic setback raised fresh questions about how the U.S. would protect its allies in the fight against IS and about the pace of the drawdown of U.S. forces in Syria.

"John Bolton has made a very serious mistake. We cannot make any concessions in this regard," Erdogan said Tuesday, just before Bolton left the country with tensions between the NATO allies at new highs. He added that Ankara's preparations for a new military offensive against what the Turkish leader describes as terror groups in Syria are "to a large extent" complete.

Bolton had insisted that Turkey refrain from conducting any operation unless it was approved by and coordinated with the U.S. Turkey's presidential spokesman fired back publicly that Turkey would not seek permission from its allies to conduct a military offensive against Syrian Kurdish fighters, but was willing to coordinate operations.

A senior administration official said Erdogan's comments did not reflect President Donald Trump's understanding of his Dec. 23 conversation with the Turkish leader, days after the U.S. president announced his intent to withdraw American troops from northeastern Syria. Trump "thought he got a commitment from Erdogan" to protect the Kurds, the official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the official wasn't authorized to speak on the record.

An official at Tuesday's meeting between Bolton and senior Turkish officials said presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin stated that Erdogan committed that Turkey would not take offensive action while U.S. forces were there.

Bolton departed Turkey without meeting with Erdogan in an apparent snub by the Turks—the meeting had been expected for days. A spokesman for Bolton said U.S. officials were told Erdogan cited the local election season and a speech to parliament for not meeting with him.

In the more than two-hour meeting with Kalin, Bolton outlined five U.S. principles for the Syria drawdown, including that "the United States opposes any mistreatment of opposition forces who fought with us against ISIS."

In the high-stakes session in Ankara's presidential complex, Bolton also rebuked Erdogan's column in The New York Times, in which the Turkish leader restated his position that the Syrian Defense Forces were members of terrorist groups and criticized the U.S. air campaign against the Islamic State.

An official at the meeting said Bolton told Kalin that Erdogan's op-ed was "wrong and offensive."

The official added that the U.S. stuck by Trump's request that the Kurds who fought with the U.S. not be mistreated, and the Turks stuck by their position that the Kurds "are terrorist groups and they're free to go after them."

Trump abruptly announced last month he intended to withdraw U.S. troops from Syria, and the U.S. has sent mixed signals over how soon that would be accomplished. Bolton's trip to the Mideast was aimed at assuring allies it would not be done precipitously.

But Kalin told reporters after talks with Bolton there is no slowdown in the timetable for U.S. withdrawal from Syria. He said U.S. officials have said during their discussions that the withdrawal could take place within "120 days."

## Pompeo starts Middle East visit to ramp up pressure on Iran

**AMMAN, Jordan** (AP)— The Trump administration is doubling down on commercial and diplomatic efforts in the coming weeks to "put real pressure on Iran," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said at the start of a Mideast tour Tuesday.

Pompeo is meeting with U.S. allies in the region, including stops in Jordan, Egypt and several Gulf nations, to coordinate an anti-Iran campaign.

The trip comes amid confusion over conflicting statements by President Donald Trump and senior U.S. officials about a planned U.S. troop withdrawal from Syria. Trump made the surprise announcement about a withdrawal last month, saying some 2,000 troops fighting alongside Syrian Kurdish allies in northeastern Syria against Islamic State extremists would be pulled out soon. He did not give details, such as a timetable, leaving bewildered U.S. partners in the region jockeying for influence over terms of a withdrawal.

Pompeo contended Tuesday that the planned withdrawal from Syria would not complicate the administration's anti-Iran campaign. He said U.S. allies in the region, including Jordan, agree on what they view as the "enormous risk" Iran poses for the region.

"The president's decision to withdraw our folks from Syria in no way impacts our capacity to deliver on that," he said in a joint news conference with Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi. "You will see in the coming days and weeks that we are doubling not only our diplomatic but our commercial efforts to put real pressure on Iran to achieve what it is we set out for them back in May."

Pompeo's visit began as U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton was set to depart Turkey without meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan—an apparent snub over disagreements about the Kurdish fighters in Syria.

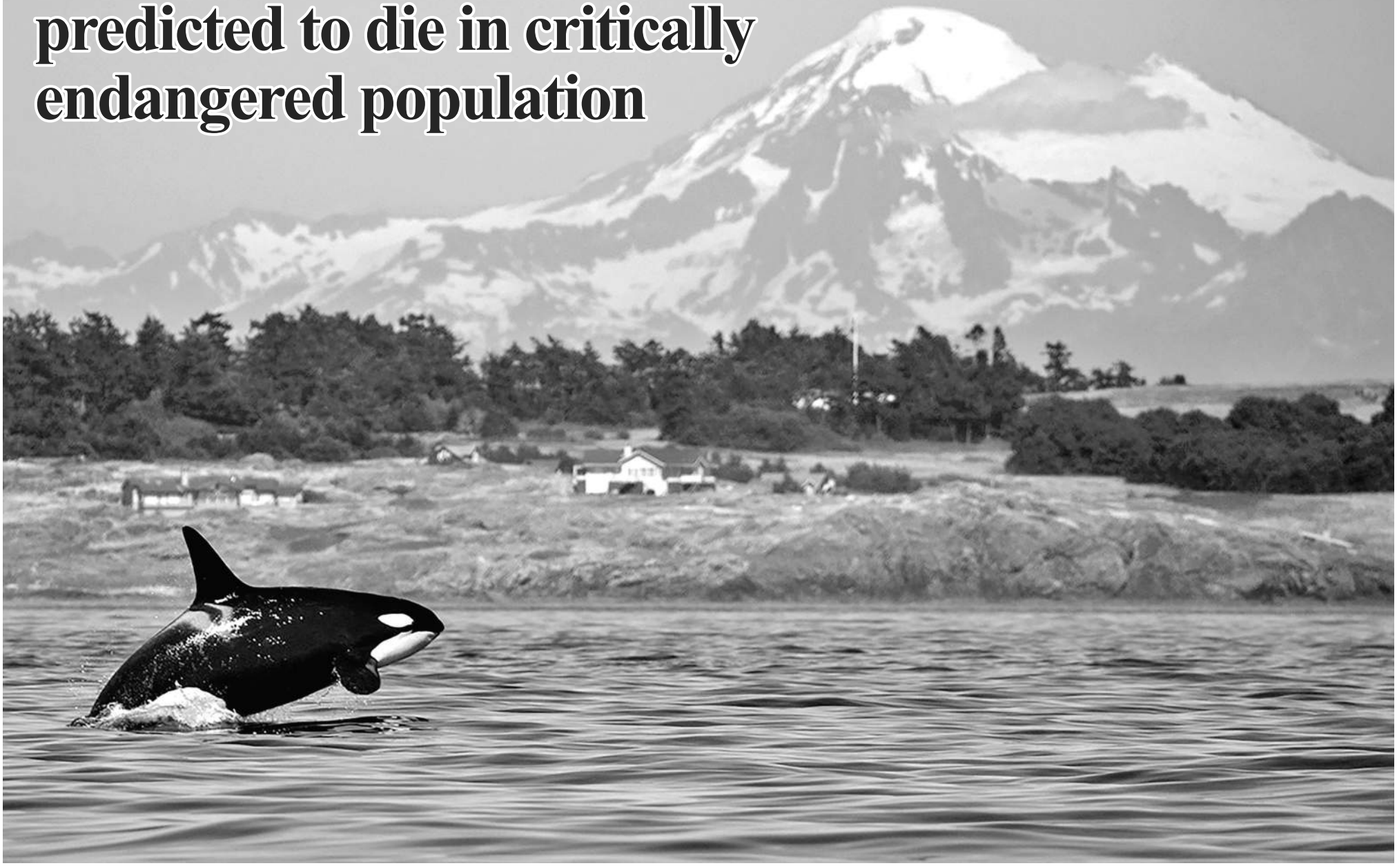
U.S. officials had said the two were expected to have consultations on Tuesday about the fate of Kurds allied with the U.S. in Syria as part of discussions about Trump's troop draw-down.

National Security Council spokesman Garrett Marquis said U.S. officials were told Erdogan cited local election season and a speech to parliament for not meeting with Bolton.

The Trump administration in November restored U.S. sanctions on Iran that had been lifted under the landmark 2015 nuclear deal with Western powers. The sanctions cover Iran's shipping, financial and energy sectors. They are the second batch the administration has re-imposed since Trump withdrew from the accord in May.

Environment

# 2 more Puget Sound orcas predicted to die in critically endangered population



TNS
A southern resident killer whale breaches in Haro Strait just off San Juan Island's west side with Mt. Baker in the backround.

By LYNDA V. MAPES
THE SEATTLE TIMES

**SEATTLE**—Two more orcas are ailing and probably will be dead by summer, according to the region's expert on the demographics of the critically endangered southern residents.

Ken Balcomb, founding director of the Center for Whale Research, said photos taken of J17 on New Year's Eve showed the 42-year-old female has so-called peanut head, a misshapen head and neck caused by starvation. In addition K25, a 27-year-old male, is failing, also from lack of sufficient food. He lost his mother, K13, in 2017 and is not successfully foraging on his own.

"I am confident we are going to lose them sometime before summer," Balcomb said.

Drone photography this past summer showed K25 to be noticeably thinner, and photos taken of him again in this winter show no improvement, Balcomb said.

Several whales were documented to be pregnant back in September, but so far there has been no sign of any babies. The southern residents have not had a successful pregnancy in three years.

The troubling news comes on top of a grim year in 2018 for the southern residents, the J, K, and L pods of fish-eating orcas that frequent the Salish Sea, which includes Puget Sound and the trans-boundary waters of the United States and Canada, as well as the West Coast of the United States.

The southern resident population is at a 35-year low after three deaths this past year in four months. There are only 74 left. "I am going to stop counting at 70," Balcomb said. "What is the point?"

Losing J17 would be a blow to the southern residents because she is a female still of reproducing age, said Deborah Giles, research scientist for University of Washington Center for Conservation Biology and research director for nonprofit Wild Orca.

Giles said she was not surprised to hear about K25. The social dynamics of the southern residents, in which older females help their pod, and especially their sons by sharing food, is both a blessing and a curse if that female dies, Giles said.

"These large, adult, hungry males benefit by the females in their family," Giles said. "There probably is still family foraging going on, but not like he had when his mom was alive."

As for J17, "that is the worst of those two, the thought of losing her, she is such an important member for the southern resident community," Giles said.

J17 is the mother of J35, or Tahlequah, who moved people around the world when in 2018 she carried her dead calf that lived for only one half-hour on her head for more than 1,000 miles over the course of 17 days.

The family already has been through a lot.

"We have no idea what that grandmother went through, watching her daughter carry around that baby as long as she did," Giles said. "What would that have been like. To watch your daughter go through that grief and not have much you can do about it."

The same family in 2016 also lost J54, a 1-year-old whale the whole family tried to support, especially his sister, J46, feeding him, and lifting the baby whale up with their teeth every time he started to sink. "The other whales were trying to support him," Balcomb said. "He had tooth rakes all over his body, but it wasn't malicious, he was sinking."

It is hard to confront a new year with two whales already failing, Giles said. "It is this anticipatory grief. I am worried. And I am afraid."

Drone photography taken this past September showed the southern residents went into the winter thinner than they were when the whales arrived in the San Juan Islands last summer. They also are thinner than the northern residents, which have been steadily growing in population for the past 40 years in their home waters primarily in northern B.C. and southeast Alaska, where they have access to more fish, and cleaner and quieter water. The northern residents gave birth to 10 new calves last year.

The southern residents look particularly thin next to the seal-eating transient, or Bigg's, killer whales.

"They are like marshmallows," Balcomb said.

The coming year is not looking any easier for the southern residents in terms of their food supply. The whales mostly eat chinook salmon.

Ocean conditions and poor river migration, with warm water and low flows, have hurt chinook salmon returns in the past several years. Even Columbia River fall chinook, a bright spot by comparison in the region, came back to the river in such low numbers last summer that a rare emergency fishing closure was enacted on the river from the mouth all the way to Pasco.

Only 186,862 fall chinook made it back below Bonneville dam in 2018, 65 percent below the 10-year average. Returns over Bonneville of jacks, or immature chinook, which can be a reliable predictor of this year's return, were down to 61 percent below the 10-year average.

Columbia River chinook are important to the whales because they are among the biggest, fattiest fish of all. The whales also target chinook returning to rivers in Puget Sound, and in the summer, to the Fraser River. Those runs have been declining as well.

The whales' behavior is changing as their food sources dwindle. They are arriving later and later in the San Juan Islands, because the Fraser River chinook runs they seek in those waters have so declined. The southern residents also are no longer often seen in large groups, in a pattern of feeding, then socializing, then resting before going on to a new spot.

"They do not have enough fish to feed them, they are spread out all over, we never seem them like it was 30, 40 years ago, when they would travel and find fish, then be playful, then rest, then travel again, that was the pattern," Balcomb said.

"You don't see them resting any more, they have to work all the time, every day."

He said proposals put forward for the whales in the governor's $1.1 billion budget for orca recovery, including a temporary ban on whale watching of the southern residents don't go far enough.

"We need bold action," Balcomb said. "Natural rivers and more chinook salmon."

# Life & Style

## Georgia man tells police R. Kelly's manager threatened him

**STOCKBRIDGE, Ga. (**AP)—A Georgia man involved with a recent documentary detailing abuse allegations against R. Kelly told police the singer's manager threatened him.

Timothy Savage told an officer on Jan. 3 that Don Russell had texted him saying it would be best for him and his family if the documentary didn't air, according to a Henry County police report.

Savage said he and his wife were involved with Lifetime's "Surviving R. Kelly" series. The series, which aired earlier this month, looks at the singer's history and allegations that he has sexually abused women and girls. Kelly, who turned 52 on Tuesday, has denied wrongdoing.

Russell called Savage while the officer was there and Savage put the phone on speaker so the officer could listen, the police report says. It went on to say that Russell accused Savage of lying to Lifetime and said that if Savage continued to support the series, Russell and Kelly would be forced to release information that would show Savage was a liar and that would ruin him, his reputation, his business and his family.

Contact information for Russell could not be immediately found.

The report says the case is being forwarded to the criminal investigations division for review.

In Kelly's hometown Chicago, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx addressed reporters Tuesday afternoon after her office had been inundated with calls about the allegations in the documentary, some tied to his Chicago-area home.

Foxx watched the series herself and said she found it "deeply, deeply disturbing."

"I was sickened by the allegations. I was sickened as a survivor. I was sickened as a mother. I was sickened as a prosecutor," she said.

But Foxx also said there's no active investigation of Kelly and launching one would require victims and witnesses.

A Cook County jury acquitted Kelly of all 14 counts of child pornography in 2008. Prosecutors had argued a videotape showed him engaged in graphic sex acts with a girl as young as 13. Kelly and the alleged victim, in her 20s at the time of the trial, denied it was them in the video.

Kelly's Chicago attorney, Steve Greenberg, said in a phone interview Tuesday evening that the allegations in the Lifetime documentary were false.

"Ten and a half years after he was found innocent (at trial of child pornography charges) and to fill reality TV time—someone comes up with another round of stories," he said. "No one has found any sex slaves or underage girls because there aren't any."

## Facing pressure, networks fact-check Trump speech

**NEW YORK (**AP)—Television pundits moved swiftly to correct or challenge President Donald Trump following Tuesday's Oval Office speech on the proposed border wall, after their networks were the target of an unusual debate over whether they should show him at all.

"Just because you say it's a crisis doesn't necessarily make it one," ABC White House correspondent Cecilia Vega said following the president's address.

Some network critics had essentially made the same point in arguing for a television boycott, along with saying the president couldn't be trusted with the truth. It's rare, but not unprecedented, for networks to say no to a presidential request for airtime.

But refusing to air Trump's first Oval Office address as president, in the midst of a government shutdown over the funding fight, would have been seen as a provocative act in itself. So the four major broadcasters and cable news networks showed him, while also airing rebuttals from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and making provisions of their own to pounce on misstatements.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of N.Y., and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi of Calif., walk from the West Wing to speak to reporters after meeting with President Donald Trump about border security in the Situation Room of the White House, Friday, Jan. 4, 2018, in Washington. AP

CNN brought on Daniel Dale, a White House correspondent for the Toronto Star, who has become known for cataloguing Trump misstatements, and he said the president falsely asserted it was the Democrats who had advanced the idea of a steel barrier instead of a wall. NBC's Chuck Todd made the same point.

"I would say he made a lot of dubious claims," Todd said.

ABC's George Stephanopoulos disputed Trump's claim that the U.S.-Mexico free trade agreement will essentially result in that country paying for the wall. "It has not been approved by Congress and even if it is, there's no provision there to make Mexico pay for the wall," Stephanopoulos said.

## Fox's 'Masked Singer' draws a strong audience for debut

**NEW YORK (**AP)—Fox hoped to use a week when there wasn't much else on broadcast television besides football to draw attention to its new competition "The Masked Singer." The strategy proved sound.

The Nielsen company said that 9.37 million people watched the series debut last Wednesday. That was the biggest audience for unscripted show premiere on television in the last seven years.

Most promisingly for Fox, which is starved for a hit, more precise statistics illustrated a strong buzz for the show. Its ratings grew in the show's second half hour, meaning people were attracted to the program through word of mouth as it was airing. That's unusual for a new show, when attention typically slips as the hour goes on.

The show also padded its stats with people who caught it through delayed viewing or streaming. Add in those numbers, and Fox estimates some 14 million people checked out Fox's attempt to establish a new music competition series.

A big test will come this week and beyond, when "The Masked Singer" has more competition.

NBC also debuted its own high-profile competition series last week, "Titan Games." It reached 6.5 million people, which was more than anything else on NBC prime-time last week except for the Golden Globes telecast, Nielsen said. The Globes were seen by 18.6 million people, down slightly from last year.

Football continues to be king, with Fox drawing nearly 29.4 million people to see Seattle and Dallas compete in an NFL wild-card game, Nielsen said.

Fox won the week in prime-time, averaging 7.9 million viewers. NBC had 7.4 million, CBS had 5.7 million, ABC had 4.1 million, Univision had 1.36 million, ION Networks had 1.35 million, Telemundo had 910,000 and the CW averaged 610,000.

ESPN topped the cable networks with a prime-time average of 3.48 million viewers. Fox News Channel had 1.59 million, MSNBC had 1.54 million, Hallmark had 1.45 million and HGTV had 1.27 million.

ABC's "World News Tonight" topped the evening newscasts with an average of 9.4 million viewers. NBC's "Nightly News" had 8.9 million viewers on average and the "CBS Evening News" drew 6.3 million.

## Cuaron, Cooper, Lee among Directors Guild nominees

**NEW YORK (**AP)—Bradley Cooper, Alfonso Cuaron and Spike Lee are among the nominees for the Directors Guild of America award for outstanding directorial achievement.

The DGA announced its five nominees Tuesday in one of the most closely watched guild awards leading up to next month's Academy Awards. Cuaron is nominated for his personal black-and-white drama "Roma," Cooper for his "A Star Is Born" remake and Lee for his white supremacist tale "BlacKkKlansman."

The other nominees for the 71st annual Directors Guild Awards were Peter Farrelly for the interracial road trip tale "Green Book" and Adam McKay for "Vice," his biopic of former Vice President Dick Cheney.

Among those notably left out were Ryan Coogler ("Black Panther"), Yorgos Lanthimos ("The Favourite") and Barry Jenkins ("If Beale Street Could Talk").

The DGA Awards can be strongly predictive of the Oscar directing nominees and eventual best picture nominees. Only once in the last decade (when the film academy expanded the best picture category) has a director nominated by the DGA not also had the film nominated for best picture at the Oscars. The lone exception: David Fincher's 2011 thriller, "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo."

But while many of the DGA nominees usually mirror most of the directors nominated by the Oscars, they often diverge by one nominee. That's been the case in each of the past five years.

## Margot Robbie to play Barbie in live-action film

In this Monday, Dec. 10, 2018, file photo, actress Margot Robbie poses for photographers upon her arrival at the premiere of the film "Mary Queen of Scots," in London. AP

**LOS ANGELES (**AP)—Margot Robbie will bring Barbie to life in a live-action film.

Mattel and Warner Bros. Pictures announced Tuesday that Robbie will star as the iconic doll in the franchise's first-ever live-action film. The 28-year-old "I, Tonya" actress will also co-produce the film under her LuckyChap Entertainment banner.

The Barbie film is the first announced deal to come out of toymaker's newly-established Mattel Films. The Barbie doll debuted at a New York toy fair in 1959.

Robbie said in a statement that she believes the film will have a "tremendously positive impact on children and audiences worldwide." The Oscar-nominated actress has also starred in "Mary Queen of Scots," and "Suicide Squad."

The film's title and release date have not been revealed.

# Painting looted by Nazis returned to Jewish heirs in Germany

**BERLIN** (AP)—Officials have returned a painting looted by the Nazis to the heirs of a Jewish French politician and resistance figure who was executed during World War II.

"Portrait of a Seated Young Woman" by Thomas Couture, which belonged to Georges Mandel, was discovered in late collector Cornelius Gurlitt's art trove while German authorities were investigating a tax case in 2012.

The reclusive Bavarian collector inherited much of a 1,500-piece collection from his father, Hildebrand Gurlitt, an art dealer who traded in works confiscated by the Nazis. Many are thought to have been looted from their original Jewish owners, but provenance research has been slow and only a few have been restituted.

Culture Minister Monika Gruetters pledged at Tuesday's handover to Mandel's relatives to do everything possible to return stolen art to its rightful owners.

AP

Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media Monika Gruetters, right, overhands the painting 'Portrait of a Seated Young Woman' by Thomas Couture to Franz Rainer Wolfgang Joachim Kleinertz, left, and Maria de las Mercedes Estrada, second from left, heirs of Jewish French politician Georges Mandel, during a restitution ceremony in Berlin, Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019.

# Tom Hanks to present SAG's lifetime award to Alan Alda

**NEW YORK** (AP)—One of America's sweethearts hands the torch to another when Tom Hanks presents Alan Alda with a lifetime achievement award at the upcoming Screen Actors Guild Award ceremony.

The 82-year-old Alda, a Golden Globe- and Emmy-winner, will become the 55th recipient of the annual award given to an actor who fosters the "finest ideals of the acting profession." Hanks will hand it to him in a Jan. 27 ceremony.

"I'm so thrilled that Tom agreed to that. I had no idea they were even asking him. And it's so generous of him," Alda told The Associated Press.

Alda and Hanks worked together on the film "Bridge of Spies," and Alda said they "have run into each other casually over the years at awards ceremonies and on airplanes and things like that. So, I remember him when he was just a kid."

Throughout a career that has spanned seven decades, Alda has appeared in "The West Wing," "The Aviator" and "Manhattan Murder Mystery," but is perhaps best known for his role as Hawkeye Pierce in the television series ""M(asterisk)A(asterisk)S(asterisk)H." Alda has won six Emmy Awards and was also nominated for an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor in 2004 for his role in "The Aviator."

Alda has also been involved in numerous charities and organizations that have supported children's causes, women's issues and the sciences. The latter inspired the formation of the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University in New York.

That combined with his affable personality has earned Alda his "nice guy" reputation over the years. He jokes that the "niceness" compensates for a profession that is not always viewed kindly.

"It's a counterbalance, I guess, to the rowdy reputation that a lot of actors have had over the last couple of hundred years, including the guy who shot Lincoln. So it's good to balance the reputations of the acting profession," Alda said.

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Lawyer: Harvey Weinstein's criminal trial scheduled for May

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Harvey Weinstein's lawyer says the disgraced Hollywood mogul's sexual assault trial in New York is scheduled for May 6, but court officials say that's tentative and unofficial. Lawyer Benjamin Brafman mentioned the date in a court filing Monday in a civil case against Weinstein. He wants actress Ashley Judd's lawsuit put on hold until Weinstein's criminal case is resolved. A court spokesman said Tuesday that an early May trial date had been discussed, but that nothing was official. A pretrial hearing is scheduled for March 7. A judge last month denied a defense motion seeking to dismiss the case. The 66-year-old Weinstein is charged with raping an unidentified female acquaintance in 2013 and performing a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006. He denies all allegations of non-consensual sex.

### Jordan Peele's 'Us' to premiere as opening film at SXSW

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Jordan Peele's "Us," his anticipated follow-up to "Get Out," will make its world premiere at the South by Southwest Film Festival. SXSW announced Tuesday that "Us" will open the 26th edition of the Austin, Texas, festival on March 8. Like Peele's "Get Out," "Us" is a socially minded horror thriller. The film stars Lupita Nyong'o as a woman returning to her beachside childhood home with her husband and two children. On the vacation, an unresolved trauma from her past is unearthed leading to an eerie confrontation for the family with doppelgangers of themselves. "Us" will be released March 22 by Universal Pictures. Peele also produces along with Jason Blum of Blumhouse Productions. Co-stars include Winston Duke, Elisabeth Moss and Tim Heidecker. SXSW runs March 8-17.

### Childish Gambino, Post Malone, Cardi B to play Bonnaroo fest

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—The 2019 Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival will feature Childish Gambino, Post Malone, Cardi B, the Lumineers and multiple sets from Phish. The lineup was released Tuesday for the June 13-16 outdoor music festival held annually in Manchester, Tennessee. Other top acts include Solange, The Grand Ole Opry, The Avett Brothers, Hozier, Kacey Musgraves, Brandi Carlile and Brockhampton. Bonnaroo has a history of booking legacy rock acts like U2, Elton John and Pearl Jam, and this year jam band icons Phish will return to the stage for the first time since 2012 to perform two nights during the four-day festival. Several DJ and electronic artists such as GRiZ, RL Grime, Odesza and Illenium are also playing the festival for its 18th year.

# Friend working three jobs envies man on easy street

DEAR ABBY: I am having issues with a friend who gets handed most everything he wants. I had to grow up when I was very young, pay my own way for things and take care of myself. I work three jobs to pay my rent in a house with four other people while still pursuing my passion.

This friend is unemployed. He lives in an apartment his parents pay for and goes on frequent road trips. I have reached a point where I have become seriously envious, and I'm not sure how to stop feeling frustrated that he has an easier life than I do.

I care about our friendship, but it's physically painful sometimes when he talks about these luxuries that I can't afford. Should I cut off the relationship? Is this something I should talk about with him or something I need to work on myself?

ENVIOUS IN NEW YORK

**DEAR ENVIOUS: Why not do both? Tell him how his going on and on about his "luxuries" makes you feel. If that doesn't increase his sensitivity to the disparity in your situations, you have my permission to end the relationship.**

**HOWEVER, while you are working on yourself, please understand that your friend's parents are doing him no favors. "Children" raised without an incentive to succeed are not often successful in life. They don't have the tools you have. You are independent. He isn't. Rather than work to build success in a profession, he's taking road trips. You know the value of hard work, and with each of the jobs you work, you are gaining experience and focus.**

**From my perspective, if I had to say which of you is richer, it is you. Step back and you will recognize you have nothing to be jealous about, and you'll be able to change your thinking.**

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a friend I'll call Layla. Her best friend, "Matt," raped her. She doesn't want to tell anyone, but I think she needs to. She told me Matt has done it multiple times. I love her, and I don't want it to keep happening because she's an amazing person.

Her life isn't going well, either. Her mom has stage 4 colon cancer and is in her final year. Her stepdad isn't the best person, and Layla has a disease herself. I'm really worried about her. What should I do?

STANDING BY IN OREGON

**DEAR STANDING BY: You SHOULD be worried. Encourage Layla to contact the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (rainn.org or 800-656-4673) and tell someone there what has been happening. Offer to be with her for emotional support when she does it. Her "best friend" (!) Matt is a predator, and for the sake of her own mental health she must no longer allow herself to be victimized.**

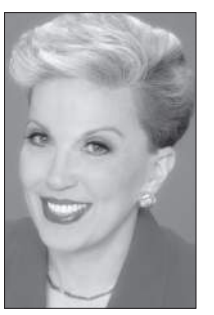
**Layla will need your friendship and support while her mother spends this final year battling her disease. It's a shame that her stepfather isn't supportive, but he may be grieving in his own way and unable to.**

**With the amount of stress that your friend is under, it is not surprising that she's ill. Stress can weaken the immune system. If she's being treated by a doctor for her illness, her doctor should be made aware of everything that's going on. She may be more inclined to reveal it if you accompany her to an appointment.**

*Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

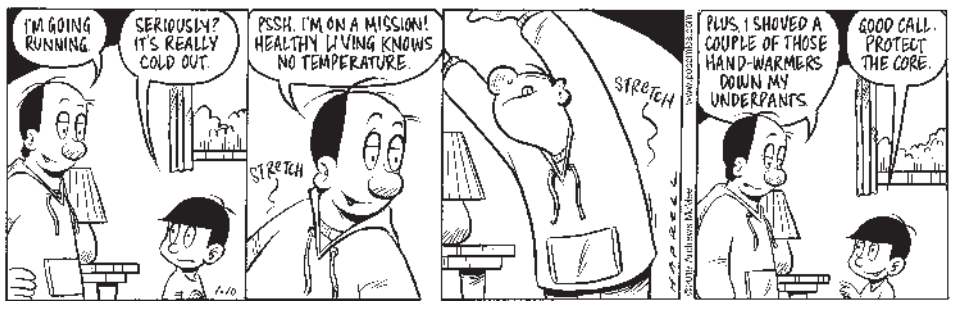
By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M GOING RUNNING.
SERIOUSLY? IT'S REALLY COLD OUT.
PSSH. I'M ON A MISSION! HEALTHY LIVING KNOWS NO TEMPERATURE.
STRETCH
STRETCH
PLUS, I SHOVED A COUPLE OF THOSE HAND-WARMERS DOWN MY UNDERPANTS.
GOOD CALL. PROTECT THE CORE.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HAND ME YOUR ISSUE OF ESQUIRE. I HAVE A HOT DATE.
RUB KRINKLE RUSTLE
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU ACTUALLY BOUGHT A BOTTLE OF COLOGNE?
UH, SIX YEARS.

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 Peruke
4 Tousle
8 Labyrinth
12 Altar constellation
13 Isaac's eldest
14 Modern taxi alternative
15 World of organized crime
17 Dross
18 Earth (Pref.)
19 Poetic feet
21 Ohio city
24 Actress Long
25 Mentalist Geller
26 Candied veggie
28 Knight wear
32 Stagger
34 Gaiety
36 Flintstones' pet
37 Seoul setting
39 Fawn's mom
41 Dol. fractions
42 Bearded beast
44 Salsa scoopers
46 "La Mer" composer
50 4, on a phone
51 Pre-diploma hurdle
52 Ruffian
56 Church area
57 Rochester's love
58 Citrus drink
59 Privation
60 Source
61 At once

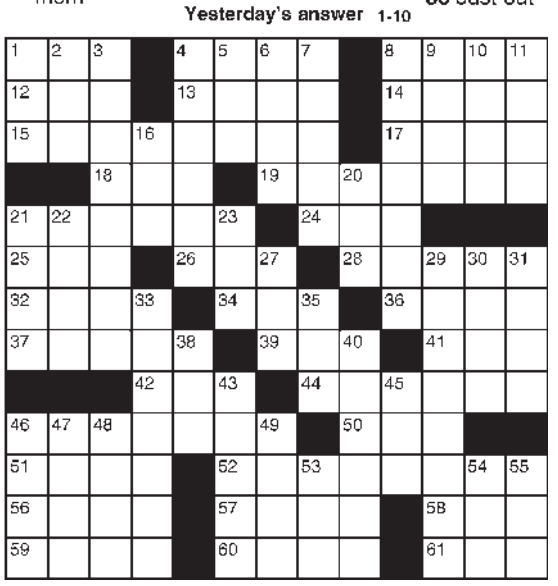
**DOWN**

1 Witty one
2 A Gershwin brother
3 More like a string bean
4 Tune
5 "Born in the —"
6 Grit
7 Egypt's neighbor
8 Hot dog condiment
9 With skill
10 Gusto
11 Work units
16 "Gosh!"
20 "Homeland" org.
21 Ankara resident
22 Crunchy cookie
23 Klutz
27 Wet dirt
29 State made of two peninsulas
30 Aware of
31 Colonial seamstress
33 Lentils, for example
35 Dijon denial
38 Reply (Abbr.)
40 Aerie newborn
43 Leading man?
45 Greek X
46 Transaction
47 Big fair, for short
48 Striped fish
49 Vacillate
53 Spanish gold
54 Hubbub
55 Just out

Solution time: 24 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | A | D | | A | V | E | R | | S | A | L | T |
| A | C | O | | V | I | S | A | | C | V | E | N |
| L | C | U | | A | N | C | H | O | R | A | G | E |
| E | G | R | E | T | | | S | I | R | | | |
| | | | L | A | M | A | | _ | E | N | T | O |
| S | U | F | F | R | A | G | E | | I | O | A | N |
| C | C | I | | S | C | A | L | D | | R | N | C |
| A | _ | B | S | | S | T | E | E | R | A | G | E |
| T | A | S | T | Y | | E | V | A | N | | | |
| | | | H | O | B | | | | H | A | N | C | H |
| E | N | C | O | U | N | T | E | R | | O | O | O |
| G | E | E | K | | I | N | N | S | | O | W | L |
| G | A | L | E | | T | O | U | T | | K | L | M |

Yesterday's answer 1-10



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Evan Handler, 58; Pat Benatar, 66; George Foreman, 70; Rod Stewart, 74.

**Happy Birthday:** Refuse to let the past hold you back. It's time to make changes that will encourage you to build better relationships with positive people who have just as much to offer in return. New beginnings will recharge you mentally and physically and give you greater insight into new possibilities. Walk away from people who bring you down or use emotional blackmail. Your numbers are 8, 15, 19, 27, 30, 36, 45.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Pour your energy into something constructive. Personal change that will help you explore new ways to be the best that you can be will help you bypass someone who is eager to make you look bad. Strive for peace. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Don't let stubbornness stand in your way. Look for the positive in every situation and work alongside instead of against those trying to accomplish similar goals. A kind gesture will bring better results than a critical comment. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Gather information and verify its legitimacy before you take action. An opportunity is only worth your while if it will bring about positive change for everyone involved. Romance will relieve tension and bring you closer to someone you love. ✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Explore your options and try something new. Treat others with respect, and be willing to compromise. Don't take offense if someone wants to do things differently. Concentrate on what you are doing, not on what others are up to. ✪✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Personal improvements will lead to unexpected gain. A makeover, fitness program or planning a romantic encounter will lift your spirits and encourage you to make positive lifestyle changes. Set a budget, and say no to a slick, misleading sales pitch. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* A change of scenery will make you realize what you've got. Look around and consider the changes you can make to improve your life or your relationship with someone who hasn't been as open with you as you would like. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Refuse to let anger lead to a mistake you'll regret. When dealing with people you love, you are best not to make accusations or ultimatums. Concentrate more on self-improvement and make physical changes that will make you look and feel good. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Learn from those with more experience. Talking to older relatives or friends will give you a better understanding of life and how best to handle domestic situations. Approval will be offered if you include the person standing in your way. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take care of your responsibilities to avoid complaints. Discuss what's expected of you before you enter into something that may turn out to be more than what you want. A personal change is in your best interest. ✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll be taken advantage of if you are too accommodating or you share your personal information or secrets freely. Being a good listener will stimulate your mind. An idea you come up with will give you something to look forward to. ✪✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Tidy up loose ends, and do your best to get ahead. An unexpected opportunity should be taken advantage of. He who hesitates is lost, so get moving and take what belongs to you. Celebrate with someone you love. ✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Offer your services, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Make what you are offering clear, and don't take on any more than you can afford to do. Someone you've collaborated with will make a good suggestion. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are resourceful, sensitive and playful. You are creative and excessive.

*To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 3 | 8 | | | |
| 1 | 6 | | 2 | | 5 | 4 |
| 7 | | | | | | 8 |
| 7 | | | | | | 9 |
| 8 | | | | | | 6 |
| 6 | | | | | | 5 |
| 4 | | | | | | 2 |
| 3 | 2 | | 8 | | 4 | 1 |
| | | 2 | | 9 | | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 6 |
| 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 5 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 |
| 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| 9 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 1 |
| 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 39

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THINGS THAT DISTRACT US IN LIFE — Solution: 10 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | F | C | T | O | R | A | G | U | S | C | H | O | O | L |
| H | R | H | A | I | L | C | A | R | S | Y | B | R | C | I |
| O | I | O | H | D | M | A | E | R | D | Y | A | D | A | A |
| N | E | C | C | A | G | G | I | S | I | N | G | L | R | M |
| E | N | O | T | R | N | N | S | C | C | E | N | A | E | E |
| C | D | L | I | U | A | E | I | I | O | E | I | P | E | D |
| A | S | A | H | A | I | S | S | T | W | S | K | T | R | D |
| L | U | T | C | V | K | U | T | S | X | D | S | O | M | O |
| L | B | E | O | O | M | E | D | I | A | E | A | P | E | O |
| S | S | M | A | R | T | P | H | O | N | E | T | D | E | M |
| E | C | N | A | D | O | O | D | L | E | A | I | A | T | N |
| S | R | B | E | F | U | D | D | D | L | E | V | T | Z | W | O |
| Y | I | N | I | N | O | I | S | I | V | E | L | E | T | I |
| O | B | R | O | W | S | E | R | E | X | C | U | S | E | S |
| T | E | N | R | E | T | N | I | S | S | E | M | A | G | E |

© 2019 King Features Syndicate, Inc. www.wonderwordbooks.com 1/10

Befuddle, Browser, Career, Cars, Chitchat, Chocolate, Dance, Daydream, Daze, Delays, Doodle, Email, Excuses, Fire, Friends, Games, Hunger, Internet, Laptop, Media, Meet, Mood, Movies, Multitasking, Music, News, Noise, Phone Calls, Procrastinate, Radio, School, Sing, Smartphone, Social, Subscribe, Sugar, Television, Texting, Toys, Video

**Yesterday's Answer: Workspace**

The NEW **Volume 55** can be purchased online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

# CLASSIFIED ADS

For positive results.
PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!
Please contact us at 235-6397

**FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING**

**(1) ACCOUNTANT**

We offer good pay and benefits package

**Please call 287-3903 or 287-3904**

**(4) CEMENT LABORER**

Cement handling equipment
Experience preferred.
Will train motivated individuals.
Wages - $10.00 per hour

Apply in person at
Hanson Micronesia, Cement Inc.
Tel: 670 322-3333

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
for more news, value and information.

SUBSCRIBING MEANS MORE

Please call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT Solution: Registered nurse

## RATES AND POLICIES

*Saipan Tribune's* Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

### CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

*Saipan Tribune* also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as $15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

**ADS**

- 3-Liner **$15**
- 5-Liner **$24**

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

**Classified Ads**

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

nurse®

WHATZIT® © 2018 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

# Chiefs' struggling defense gets Colts' potent offense

AP

In this 2014 file photo, Indianapolis Colts quarterback Andrew Luck (12) dives for a touchdown after recovering a fumble by the Colts' Eric Berry during the second half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the Kansas City Chiefs, in Indianapolis. Luck would rather look ahead than savor the past. He knows the Indianapolis Colts face a real challenge against Kansas City.

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—The Kansas City Chiefs' defense had been hearing all season about how bad they were, and how they were the biggest threat to an offensive juggernaut falling short of reaching the Super Bowl.

Then they shut down the Oakland Raiders in Week 17.

Now, the Raiders are hardly one of the NFL's premier offenses, and they rolled into Arrowhead Stadium with little impetus to play hard. But by holding Derek Carr and the rest of the Oakland offense in check, it gave the Chiefs some positive momentum heading into the playoffs, not to mention proof that some subtle tweaks to their personnel packages had paid dividends.

"We just have to keep it rolling," said linebacker Justin Houston, their longtime emotional leader. "It's a great time for us to play like this. We were firing on all cylinders from the front to the back end (against Oakland) and now we just have to build off it."

That's because Andrew Luck and the rest of the Indianapolis Colts, who will come to Kansas City for the divisional round on Saturday, represent a massive upgrade in competition.

Luck threw the second-most touchdown passes in the NFL this season, behind the Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes, and enjoyed one of the best offensive line performances in the league.

Their offense isn't a one-trick pony, either. They dominated the Texans on the ground in a 21-7 win in the wild-card game, when Marlon Mack piled up 148 yards rushing and a touchdown.

Together, the Colts have roared into the postseason with seven wins in eight games.

"Andrew's going to get you every once in a while," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said, "and you've got to make sure you get him more than he gets you, but he's got a lot of good players around him. That offensive line, people can argue with you that it's the best in the National Football League. You look at the receivers, they've got good receivers, they've got good tight ends, you go all the way around.

"You've got to bring your best. That's what the playoffs are all about," Reid added. "This is the best in the National Football League, which is the best in the world, and you have an opportunity to do that. That's an exciting thing, but you better bring your best every play."

The question for the Chiefs is simple, though: Is their best good enough?

Indianapolis was fifth in scoring while the Chiefs were 24th in scoring defense. They were last in the league in rush defensive efficiency, average yards after contact and first-down percentage, and they were second-to-last in yards-per-carry allowed despite many teams trying to play catch-up.

As bad as those numbers were, though, the Chiefs were actually respectable against the pass. And they were downright dominant when it came to pressuring the quarterback, generating sacks on 7.4 percent of pass plays—better even than Khalil Mack and the Bears—and pressure on 31.1 percent of them.

That means an intriguing matchup between the Colts offensive line, which hasn't allowed anybody to have more than one sack in a game since Week 4, and the Chiefs' pass dominant rush.

"The goal and strategy remains the same," Colts offensive coordinator Nick Sirianni said. "Run the football and set up other things by running it, and then be successful in situational football."

The Chiefs made some key personnel changes late in the season, effectively benching veteran safety Ron Parker and cornerback Orlando Scandrick. Daniel Sorensen, Charvarius Ward and Jordan Lucas have been playing more, and their results against woebegone Oakland were encouraging.

The Chiefs also could get safety Eric Berry back after he missed Week 17 with a recurrence of his heel injury. Berry only played a couple of games this season, but he changed the entire dynamic of the Kansas City defense for the snaps he was on the field.

## Column: Can new Packers coach make Rodgers great again

**GREEN BAY**—The timing of Aaron Rodgers' airing his beef with Mike McCarthy's offense after a game on Sept. 30 was probably no coincidence.

Just three days before the Green Bay Packers' mundane 22-0 win over the Buffalo Bills that Sunday afternoon, Sean McVay's electric Los Angeles Rams offense, in front of a national TV audience, had hung 38 points and 465 passing yards on the Packers' bitter NFC North rival Minnesota Vikings. Rodgers acknowledged later that he'd watched some of that game.

The image of the Rams moving the ball up and down the field against one of the league's better defenses had to have been on Rodgers' mind as he walked off Lambeau Field after beating the Bills. By the end of his news conference, it was hard not to wonder if Rodgers was wishing he played for a young offensive mind like McVay or San Francisco's Kyle Shanahan, who have been all the rage of the NFL the last couple of years.

Well, now Rodgers does.

Matt LaFleur, the 39-year-old coach the Packers hired Monday, has worked his entire NFL career with Shanahan, McVay, or both.

That of course doesn't mean LaFleur will be a good head coach. Look at all the failures off the Bill Belichick coaching tree, for instance. You never know how these guys will do until they sit in the captain's chair.

But LaFleur will bring to the Packers the same scheme and approach to offense that McVay has to the Rams and Shanahan to the 49ers. Whether he has the same skills, on that we'll have to wait and see.

Going into the weekend, if I'd been forced to bet on the Packers' choice, I'd probably have gone with New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels. His reputation as an offensive mind is as good as anyone's in the NFL. He also has a strong, take-charge personality, which usually is good for someone who has to lead an NFL franchise. But that too can cut both ways.

Regardless, there was no obvious guess. With Rodgers just finishing the first year of the most lucrative contract in NFL history, it makes sense that president/CEO Mark Murphy and general manager Brian Gutekunst were looking hard at coaches whose expertise is that side of the ball in general and quarterbacks in particular.

The Packers are married to Rodgers for at least a couple of more seasons, and they need to get him back playing at an elite level after the disaster that was 2018. It's no coincidence that five of the coaches Murphy and Gutekunst interviewed had coached quarterbacks in the NFL: LaFleur (six years), McDaniels (four), Adam Gase (three), Pete Carmichael (three) and Jim Caldwell (seven).

Murphy and Gutekunst might not have been locked into hiring one of those guys going into the interviews, but they clearly considered it important to look hard at candidates they thought might click with Rodgers. They chose LaFleur, and now it will be up to the 39-year-old, former Division II quarterback to make that work.

It probably didn't hurt that LaFleur, according to a source, also had Mike Pettine on his list of prospective defensive coordinators.

## Cardinals hire ex-Texas Tech coach Kingsbury

**PHOENIX** (AP)—The Arizona Cardinals have hired former Texas Tech coach Kliff Kingsbury, a move aimed at providing guidance for young quarterback Josh Rosen and resuscitating the worst offense in the NFL.

The Cardinals announced the hiring Tuesday after a long interview earlier in the day. He was to be introduced at a news conference at the team's training facility in Tempe on Wednesday.

Kingsbury was fired after going 35-40 in six seasons at Texas Tech, but his teams were known for their high-scoring performances. His prize pupil in those days was current Kansas City Chiefs All-Pro quarterback Patrick Mahomes. Tuesday's hiring came barely a month after Kingsbury was hired as offensive coordinator at USC.

Kingsbury replaces Steve Wilks, who was fired after going an NFL-worst 3-13 in his one season in Arizona.

### Bruce Arians to Buccaneers

Meanwhile, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers appear to have made their choice in their head coaching search.

The team is hiring former Arizona Cardinals coach Bruce Arians.

Arians, 66, retired after last season, finishing with a 49-30-1 record in five years with the Cardinals. While with the team, he had several health-related issues, including two trips to the hospital during the 2016 season. He also later revealed in his book that he had a cancerous spot removed from his liver in 2016.

In November, Arians told The Canton Repository that the Cleveland Browns' head coaching opening would be "the only job I would consider." But he previously worked with Buccaneers general manager Jason Licht, who served as the Cardinals' director and vice president of player personnel from 2012-13.

Arians will already have his quarterback in the fold, as general manager Jason Licht said Jameis Winston will return for the 2019 season. Winston is scheduled to earn $20.9 million in his fifth-year option.

# Saunders wins 1st game as T'Wolves top Thunder

**OKLAHOMA CITY** (AP) — Ryan Saunders went right into the fire in his first game as the Minnesota Timberwolves' interim coach.

His debut was a down-to-the wire finish with the Oklahoma City Thunder, one of the best teams in the Western Conference.

His team came through. Andrew Wiggins had a season-high 40 points and 10 rebounds, and the Timberwolves beat the Thunder 119-117 on Tuesday night.

Saunders deflected credit after the game.

"It's unbelievable how they stayed connected throughout the whole game," he said. "Down the stretch, there were so many times where we could have disbanded and then the crowd could have got into us. I can't say enough about that team."

Saunders, just 32 years old, is the son of former Timberwolves head coach Flip Saunders. The team fired Tom Thibodeau on Sunday.

The players went all out for their new leader.

"He fed off our energy, and we fed off his energy," Timberwolves forward Taj Gibson said. "We were just trying to get a win for him."

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 20 points and Dario Saric added 15 for the Timberwolves.

Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook missed two 3-pointers in the closing seconds that would have given the Thunder the lead. He finished with 25 points and 16 assists.

"We just tried to stay solid, really," Wiggins said. "We knew they were going to try to be aggressive with either (Paul) George or Westbrook. If we're going to foul, make a hard foul. And don't let them hit the 3. That was the main thing."

George scored 27 points and Steven Adams added 20 points and 12 rebounds for Oklahoma City.

Thunder reserve center Nerlens Noel was taken off the court on a stretcher in the third quarter after Wiggins made contact with him on a dunk attempt.

Noel took an elbow in the face as Wiggins went up, and Noel hit the ground hard. A defensive foul was called on Noel. The play was reviewed, and no additional fouls were called. Noel was down for several minutes before being taken from the court. Thunder coach Billy Donovan said Noel was taken to the University of Oklahoma's OU Medical Center.

"I just tried to make an aggressive move and dunk," Wiggins said. "He tried to contest it. I think he fell wrong. I didn't really see it until I saw him on the ground. Hopefully, he's good. I hope nothing but the best for him. I hope he gets healthy soon and comes back stronger."

In the fourth quarter, Oklahoma City guard Dennis Schroder somehow won a jump ball with Towns, and Westbrook hit a 3-pointer to give the Thunder a 111-110 lead.

Josh Okogie's corner 3-pointer with 26.8 seconds left put the Timberwolves up 119-115.

Westbrook made two free throws, then Minnesota's Tyus Jones traveled with 15.5 seconds left to give the Thunder a chance.

AP

Minnesota Timberwolves forward Dario Saric (36) shoots between Oklahoma City Thunder guard Hamidou Diallo (6) and center Steven Adams, right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019.

### Nuggets 103, Heat 99

In Miami, Nikola Jokic had 29 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his fourth triple-double of the season, and his basket with 2.4 seconds left put the Western Conference-leading Denver Nuggets ahead for the win over the Miami Heat.

Jamal Murray had 18 points, Trey Lyles added 15, Paul Millsap had 12 and Torrey Craig finished with 11 points and 16 rebounds for the Nuggets.

It was the 20th career triple-double for Jokic. He also became the second center to post one against the Heat, joining Vlade Divac—who did it for the Los Angeles Lakers on Jan. 8, 1995, exactly 24 years prior to Jokic.

Dion Waiters returned to the lineup and scored 15 points for Miami, which got 13 apiece from Bam Adebayo and Kelly Olynyk, and 12 each from Hassan Whiteside, Josh Richardson and Justise Winslow.

### Warriors 122, Knicks 95

In Oakland, Klay Thompson scored 43 points with seven 3-pointers, Stephen Curry had his first double-double of the season with 14 points and a season-best 14 assists, and the Golden State Warriors snapped a rare three-game home losing streak by beating the cold-shooting New York Knicks.

Kevin Durant added 24 points, six rebounds and six assists while Draymond Green had 11 rebounds and 10 of his team's 36 assists as the Warriors pulled away late in the first half to get back on a winning track at Oracle Arena.

Thompson hit 5 of his first 7 shots and had 12 points by the end of the first, finishing 18 of 29 from the floor—7 for 16 from long range—and notching his second game with at least 40 points after going off for 52 at Chicago on Oct. 29.

Mario Hezonja scored 19 points for the Knicks, who shot 39.8 percent (35 of 88). Enes Kanter added 12 points and 16 rebounds.

The Warriors ended the first half on a 13-0 run over the final 2:47 of the first half to turn a 49-48 deficit into a 61-49 lead at the break.

The skid at home matched the longest at Oracle Arena during Steve Kerr's five seasons as coach.

"I think all great teams have a really good record at home, just kind of the way it is, so we need to re-establish ourselves this week at Oracle," Kerr said.

### Raptors 104, Hawks 101

In Toronto, Serge Ibaka scored the winning basket with 17 seconds remaining and Toronto won its sixth straight home game.

Kawhi Leonard scored 31 points, Pascal Siakam had 13 points and 10 rebounds, and Kyle Lowry scored 16 points as the Raptors earned their sixth consecutive win over the Hawks.

OG Anunoby scored 14 points and Ibaka had 13.

John Collins had 21 points and 14 rebounds, Jeremy Lin scored 20 points and Trae Young added 19 for the Hawks, who have lost four of five.

### Pacers 123, Cavaliers 115

In Cleveland, Thaddeus Young scored 26 points, Bojan Bogdanovic had 23 and Indiana held off Cleveland's comeback bid and handed the Cavaliers their 10th straight loss.

Cleveland has the worst record in the league at 8-33. The Cavaliers suffered another injury when forward Larry Nance hurt his right knee in the first quarter and didn't return.

Victor Oladipo had 17 points and Domantas Sabonis had 15 for the Pacers, who have won seven of eight.

Jordan Clarkson scored 26 points for Cleveland.

### 76ers 132, Wizards 115

In Philadelphia, Rookie Landry Shamet made eight 3-pointers and scored 29 points, both career-highs, and Joel Embiid had 20 points and 10 rebounds to lead Philadelphia to a rout of Washington.

Jimmy Butler added 20 points and Ben Simmons had 19 points, nine assists and five rebounds for the 76ers, who won their fourth straight and seventh of nine.

Bradley Beal scored 28 points for the Wizards.

Philadelphia improved to an NBA-best 18-3 at home.

### Suns 115, Kings111

In Phoenix, Kelly Oubre Jr. matched his career high with 26 points, including a one-handed rebound jam with 11.1 seconds to play, and Phoenix snapped a six-game losing streak by rallying from a 21-point deficit to beat turnover-prone Sacramento.

Oubre, obtained in the trade that sent Trevor Ariza to Washington on Dec. 17, matched the 26 points he scored for the Wizards against Detroit on Jan. 19 of last year.

T.J. Warren added 21 points and Deandre Ayton had 17 points and 12 rebounds for the Suns, who were without leading scorer Devin Booker due to back spasms.

De'Aaron Fox scored 24 and Ben McLemore 20 for the Kings, who committed a season-high 26 turnovers, 18 in the second half.

## Harrington chosen as Europe captain for 2020 Ryder Cup

**VIRGINIA WATER, England** (AP)—Padraig Harrington was chosen as captain of Europe's team for the 2020 Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits on Tuesday, and said he was putting his legacy on the line by taking the "daunting" role.

"It's not something I take on without a certain amount of trepidation," Harrington, a three-time major champion, said when he was presented as captain at a media conference at the European Tour's headquarters at Wentworth.

The 47-year-old Irishman has served as vice-captain for the past three Ryder Cups, most recently under Thomas Bjorn last year when Europe regained the trophy outside Paris. Bjorn was on the five-person panel that selected his replacement.

Harrington has been encouraged by what he said was the "unanimous" support of Europe's players.

"Their confidence in me is hopefully going to be well-placed," Harrington said.

Harrington played in six Ryder Cups and was on the winning team four times. He won the British Open in 2007 and '08, and the U.S. PGA Championship in 2008—a run of three titles in six majors.

He said his status in the game would be damaged if Europe loses the trophy in Wisconsin.

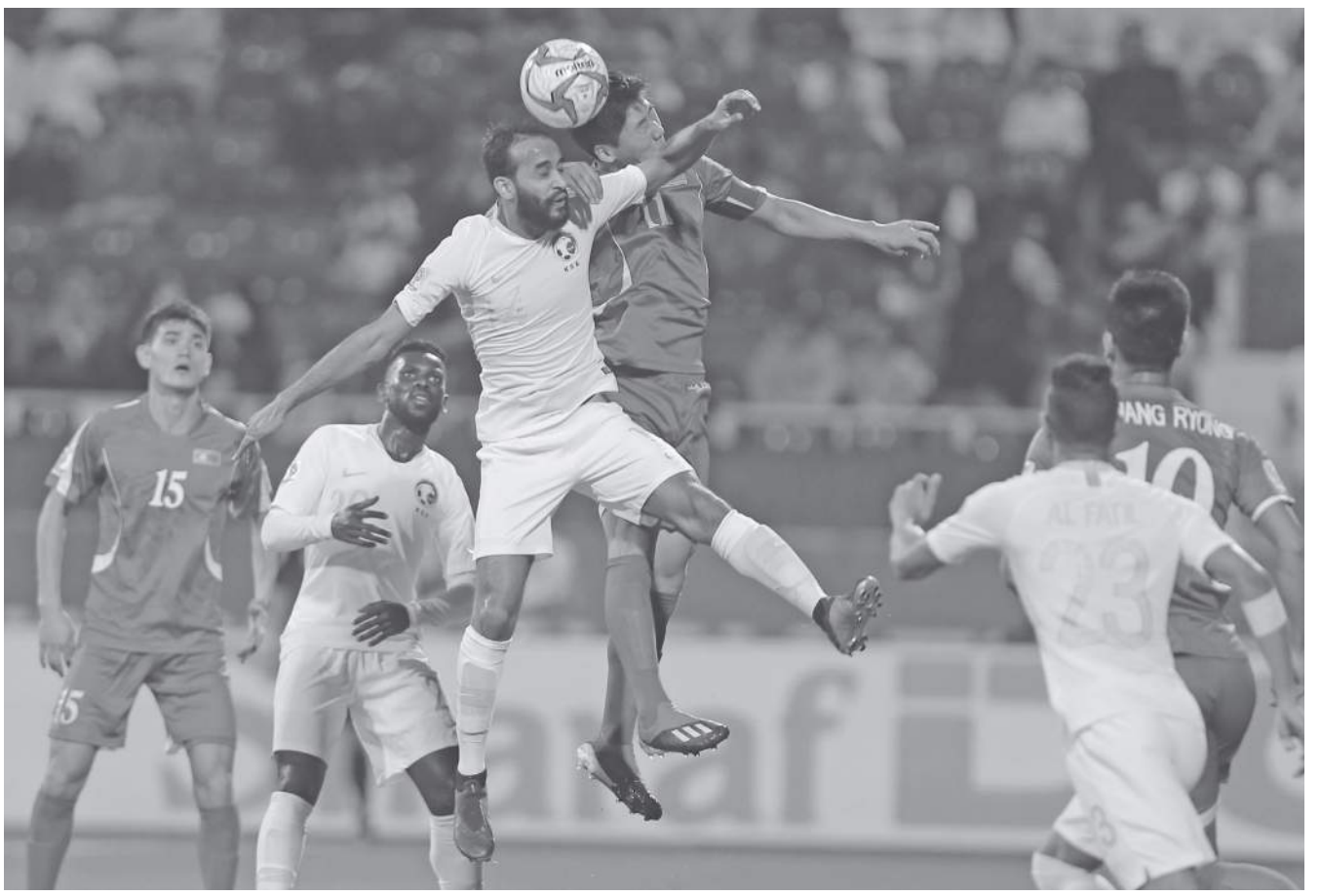
"It really came down to whether I wanted to ... put what is a successful career on the line," Harrington said. "Because you are putting it on the line when you become Ryder Cup captain. It is a different element to your career.

"A successful captain is great. A losing captain, it's his fault."

Harrington played Whistling Straits in PGA Championships there in 2004, '10, and '15.

Europe has won nine of the last 12 Ryder Cups.

# Asian Cup: Saudi Arabia routs North Korea



AP

Saudi Arabia's midfielder Abdullah Otayf, top left, goes for a header with North Korea's midfielder Jong Il-Gwan, top right, during the AFC Asian Cup group E soccer match at the Rashid Stadium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019.

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—This time, Saudi Arabia was on the right side of a rout in its opening game at a major tournament.

The Saudis beat North Korea, 4-0, on Tuesday at the Asian Cup with two well-executed goals in each half, dominating the game even before midfielder Han Kwang-song was sent off in the 44th minute.

At the 2018 World Cup, coach Juan Antonio Pizzi's team lost 5-0 to host Russia in the showpiece first game featuring the two lowest-ranked nations.

Expectations are higher now for the 69th-ranked Saudis—fifth best in the 24-team Asian Cup—who are favored to top a politically charged group that includes Qatar. On Wednesday, Qatar begins its campaign against Lebanon in Al Ain.

Earlier Tuesday, Iraq scored in the 90th minute to win 3-2 against Vietnam, which led twice in the first half.

Defender Ali Adnan, who plays in Italy for Atalanta, sealed the victory with a perfectly placed free kick. The high-quality finish stood out after four goals featuring a variety of ricochets, deflections, and defensive errors.

Saudi Arabia's impressive strikes to overwhelm the North Korean defense began when Hatan Bahbri lashed in an angled shot in the 28th minute. A deft backheel by the leaping Mohammed Al-Fatil doubled the lead in the 37th.

Captain Salem Al Dawsari cleverly created space in the penalty area to shoot and score in the 70th, and Fahad Al Muwallad beat overmatched goalkeeper Ri Myong-guk in the 87th.

It was the first time Saudi Arabia won its opening Asian Cup game since winning the last of its three titles in 1996, when the tournament was also hosted by the UAE.

The Saudis next play Lebanon and won't face Qatar until the final round of group games, on Jan. 17 in Abu Dhabi. Both could already have qualified for the knockout rounds with third-place teams in four of the six groups advancing.

Qatar has been subject to a diplomatic and logistical boycott by regional rivals including Saudi Arabia and the UAE for more than 18 months, putting the tiny emirate's 2022 World Cup hosting under pressure.

The first Qatari in action on UAE soil at this Asian Cup was referee Abdulrahman Al-Jassim, handling the Iraq-Vietnam game in Abu Dhabi.

Iraq, the surprise 2007 champion, twice trailed before half time through an own goal by Ali Faez and a ricochet off Nguyen Cong Phuong's foot from an attempted defensive clearance.

Substitute Humam Tareq leveled in the 60th after a scramble in the Vietnam goalmouth, before Adnan struck a worthy winner.

Iraq is second in Group D behind Asia's top-ranked team Iran, which beat Yemen 5-0 on Monday.

# New US coach sets foundation in first training camp

**CHULA VISTA, Calif.** (AP)—New coach Gregg Berhalter is taking the U.S. national team back to all sorts of basics during his first training camp.

Along with elementary strategic sessions and conditioning work, Berhalter's plan extends to rather basic accommodations: The 28 Major League Soccer-based players who participated in Berhalter's first practice Monday are living in dormitory-style group apartments at a training center south of San Diego for more than two weeks.

"I think it's a great environment to foster one of the main objectives of our camp, and that's team-building," Berhalter said after the workout in postcard-perfect Southern California sun. "We're here. We're going to be together here. It's an intensive period, but I think it's a focused period. We're going to get quality time together as a team."

The U.S. team had conducted its annual January camp in Carson, California, since 2004, with the players staying in hotels and commuting to their training complex just south of downtown Los Angeles. Berhalter elected to move the event 2 1/2 hours south to another well-maintained training complex in this tidy suburb within sight of the U.S.-Mexico border.

The players don't seem fazed by their accommodations, and they're intrigued to learn about the new boss' plans for World Cup qualification and everything in between.

"You've got to learn as much as you can as quick as you can," said Paul Arriola, the attacking midfielder and Chula Vista native. "As much as Gregg is learning about us and trying to fit us all together, we're trying to do the same with him and his style of play. I think we have a great group here that believes in why we're here and what we're going to do."

Berhalter was formally hired last month after 14 months of team limbo since Bruce Arena's departure. The New Jersey native is the first American to coach the national team after playing for it at a World Cup, but the 45-year-old European coaching veteran and analytics maven also represents a break from the team's recent leadership.

Berhalter got his players' attention with a strong introductory speech Sunday, delivering his priorities and goals for the months and years ahead.

The longtime Columbus Crew coach said he "very clearly laid out the objectives of this training camp, which are team building, team culture, a style of play and competing."

"We had a competition in training (today)," he added. "We're going to continue to chart the competition in training and take results of who's winning these games. Competing is a very big part of our business. But so is building the style of play, and then team cohesion. So we laid out the objectives, but we also talked bigger picture about what we want to be, and who we want to be as a group, and what our mission is."

The broader mission is to atone for the embarrassment of failing to qualify for last year's World Cup, but the success of that quest sits within the day-to-day details of building a better team. Few coaches pay more attention to detail than Berhalter, according to the players who know him.

Only MLS-based players can attend this camp, which falls outside a FIFA international window. The leading veteran is Toronto's Michael Bradley, whose 142 appearances for the U.S. are five more than the rest of the camp roster combined.

"What I would say is Gregg is into it," explained Bradley, who trained alongside Berhalter as players in 2006 during Bradley's first stint with the U.S. team. "Gregg loves football. He has real ideas about how he wants his teams to play. (It's about) details on the field, ideas, how he wants the team to play, what he wants things to look like. There's going to be real work every day, building what we want this thing to look like."

Berhalter already revealed he wants a pressing, attack-focused approach. After the U.S. spent the past year breaking in more than 20 new players under interim coach Dave Sarachan, Berhalter is deciding which players can play the new American style.

Although the true results of Berhalter's modern approach won't be decided for years, the tools for acquiring that knowledge were visible already in Chula Vista.

Team employees stood on the sideline with tablet computers tracking the players' movements, and a drone hovered overhead while the workouts were filmed for analysis. Berhalter also plans to establish stronger connections with his players' clubs in hopes of gathering more analytical data from their day jobs.

## 2 NMI

*From Page 28*

it will provide-high level training for both our referees and instructors," the NMIFA official said.

"This course is actually a program under EAFF and I believe that FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) has been providing funding for the program through the Asian Football Confederation," Ross added.

Villaflor and Ruselle were reunited with Don Cabrera, Davy Laxa, Jeralyn Castillo, Mia Carreon, Katherine Magat, Floyd Muna, Merrick Toves, Sebastien Manabat, and Taka Borja last Monday and all participated in the classroom and practical sessions of Day 1 of the development course. The practical part of the course covers game style and situation training, while for the classroom sessions, instructors and participants will discuss tactical foul, penalty incident, offside, challenge, hand ball, teamwork, and game management,

Joining Villaflor and Ruselle in assisting the visiting instructors are Guam's James Oh and Shawn Spindel, while Guam Football Association also has 22 referees attending the four-day course.

GFA, being the host federation, made two teams, including its men's national squad, available for the practical sessions. Japanese Sachiko Yamagishi and Tadashi Hase are the course's instructor and assistant instructor, respectively. Yamagishi was a referee at the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup in Canada and a five-time AFC Referee of the Year awardee, while Hase officiates games in the J2 League.

## LEE

*From Page 28*

B4, and Grade 5.

The 17-year-old Lee ruled a couple of Grade 4 and 5 competitions and made it to the finals of a B2 event once when she saw action in the Oceania Closed Junior Championships in Fiji last year.

She finished the 2018 season ranked No. 175 in the world (combined singles and doubles) and was busy in the last two months of the year after playing two tournaments each in Mexico and Florida. From the U.S. she headed to her father's home country—South Korea—and then returned to Fiji at the International Tennis Federation/Oceania Tennis Federation regional training facility before traveling to Australia last Sunday.

In the Land Down Under, Lee is making her second appearance in the AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Junior International. Last year, she also joined the qualifier of the Grade 1 tournament and was beaten in first round by Japan's Ayumi Miyamoto, 6-3, 6-1.

# Art of War 13: Submission Grappling Tournament

**PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO**

Participants and supporters of the Art of War 13: Submission Grappling Tournament pose for a photo after the competition held late last month at the Trench Tech Gym in Garapan.

Guam's Phoenix Cannon, left, chokes Mark Nuique during their blue belt absolute match.

Trench Tech's Cuki Alvarez, center, declares Giovonni Taitingfong, left, the winner over Paulo Sangalang in their blue belt absolute duel.

Franklin Santos, top, tries to maneuver his way out of the legs of Giovonni Taitingfong.

Kier Agda, left, and Gordon Salas try to pin each other down during their white belt absolute bout.

Giovonni Taitingfong, left, and Franklin Santos shake hands before their match.

Guam's Peter Carbullido, rear, chokes Shane Alvarez during their purple belt tiff.

Chiefs' struggling defense gets Colts' potent offense

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Saunders wins 1st game as T'Wolves top Thunder

PAGE 25

# Lee wins first match of season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee kicked off the season on a winning note after prevailing in the qualifier of the 2019 AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Junior International yesterday in Victoria, Australia.

Lee swept Australia's Maggie Pierce, 6-3, 6-2, in the opening round of the qualifying tournament at the Traralgon Tennis Association, moving one victory away from clinching a spot in the singles main draw. The No. 11 Lee will challenge fellow seeded player Yeon Woo Ku of South Korea today for a slot in the 64-player field. The No. 6 Ku set up a showdown against the Commonwealth player after eliminating Japan's Koharu Nimii, 6-1, 6-4.

Joining Lee and Ku in the battle for the eight qualifying berths were Russia's Veronika Pepelyaeva, Maria Bondarenko, and Maria Krupenina; Italy's Alice Amendoza and Lisa Pigato; Poland's Martyna Kubka; Japan's Shiori Ito and Saki Imamura; Australia's Tayla Whitehouse; Czech Republic's Katerina Mandelikova; Malaysia's Sara Nayar; India's Shivani Amineni, New Zealand's Elys Saguil-Ventura; and Sasha Wood of the U.S.

Lee's first tournament for 2019 is a Grade 1 event, which awards as much as 280 Junior ITF ranking points in singles and 210 in the doubles. Grade 1 is the fourth highest in the level of events under the Juniors ITF Circuit with the Grand Slam/Youth Olympics on top of the list, giving out 1,000 and 750 points to the champions. At No. 2 is the Junior Masters and followed by Grade A, Grade 1/B1, Grade 2/B2, Grade 3/B3, Grade 4/

See LEE on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Carol Lee is in Australia to vie for a slot in the main draw of the singles event in the 2019 AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Junior International.

# 2 NMI referees assist in EAFF course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two members of Northern Mariana Islands Football Association referees pool are also in Guam to provide assistance to instructors and participants in the ongoing East Asian Football Federation Referee Development Course.

NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta said that Cristy Villaflor and Ruselle Zapanta left Saipan last Monday to get ready for the course where nine young referees from the island are also enrolled.

"We actually have 11 referees in Guam for the referee course. Ruselle and Christy left a day ahead (of the big group), as they have to meet with the two Japanese instructors. Ruselle and Christy and two others from Guam will assist as referee instructors. Thus this course is even better because

See 2 NMI on Page 26

JILL ESPIRITU/GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Participants in the East Asian Football Federation Referee Development Course pose for a group photo before starting their practical session last Tuesday at the Guam Football Association National Training Center.

JILL ESPIRITU/GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Five-time AFC Referee of the Year Sachiko Yamagishi of Japan, right, and the CNMI's Mia Carreon demonstrate one of the lessons discussed at the classroom session of the course.

JILL ESPIRITU/GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
Four CNMI representatives to the referee course huddle to discuss a lesson, while Guam Football Association's Shawn Spindel looks on.